

Sketch

Tel's hat-trick cheers 186 fans



John Duncan

TERRY VENABLES is obviously used to book signings, though the last time he had to look at a queue as long as that waiting for him at Waterstone's EC3 branch yesterday they were probably lawyers with invoices rather than fans clutching copies of his new book The Best Game in the World.

genuinely moved when one fan simply shook his hand and said: "Thank you. You did a good job." His reaction to "Can you put 'To Alan S. See You in Court!' was untested. Venables was a hit too as far as the bookshop was concerned, soaring high in the Waterstone's staff unofficial league table of celebrity signers.

'I have no regrets because I had nothing to do with ordering the execution of anyone, or even suggesting it. I defended people and that's why they have survived until now'



The breakaway Khmer Rouge leader Ieng Sary (right) with General Pol Saroeun of the Cambodian army at the press conference PHOTOGRAPH BY SEVANY

Nick Cumming-Bruce in Phnom Malai

Pol Pot defector 'blameless'

THE once closed world of this key Khmer Rouge military base was invaded by foreign media yesterday as Ieng Sary, the former intimate of Pol Pot and now leader of a breakaway Khmer Rouge faction, presented his case for reconciliation in exchange for peace.



The leading figures in the Khmer Rouge

- POL POT: Known as Brother Number One, he became head of the Cambodian revolutionary movement in 1962. Presided over the deaths of at least 1 million people between 1975 and 1979. He was reported dead in June but believed to be alive and still in control of the Khmer Rouge.
NGUON CHEA: He is seen, along with Pol Pot, as the party's key ideologue. A very shadowy figure, he has never been interviewed since the Khmer Rouge was toppled in 1979. He "resigned" in 1966, but is believed to be still one of the top leaders.
SON SEN: The Khmer Rouge defence minister and security tsar, he was deeply implicated in the horrors of the killing fields.
YUN YAT: Married to Son Sen, she is, with the above, part of what Ieng Sary describes as the "gang of four". As information

minister in the Khmer Rouge government, declared that Buddhism was "incompatible with the revolution".
KHIEU SAMPAN: As nominal president of the Khmer Rouge he handled negotiations at time of UN-brokered transition to democracy in 1992. He is rumoured to want to join Ieng Sary in defecting to the government side.
TA MOK: Brutal, one-legged military commander. In charge of areas where some of the worst massacres occurred. He "resigned" in 1986.

Review

Comeback corpse lacks spark of life

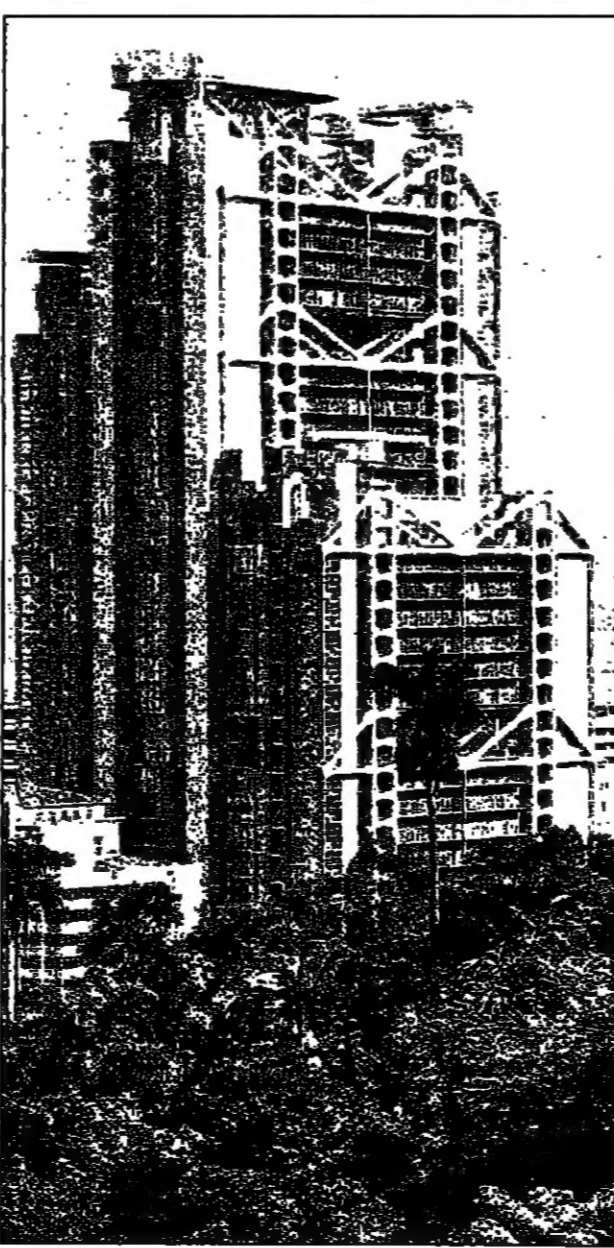
Mick Martin

MADDIE is significant not only as the first musical to be staged at Salisbury Playhouse for six years, but also as one of the first works to have been helped on its way by Stephen Sondheim's celebrated course at Oxford University, which its composer Stephen Keeling was invited to attend.

There is poignancy too, in Maddie's reunion with her now septuagenarian former admirer. And there is considerable dramatic potential in the curator's wife's eventual decision to fight back. But while all these elements are reflected in the book, McKenna and Dexter have fallen some way short of finding the means of tying them convincingly together, and so trans-forming into a coherent whole what at present comes over as an over-long collection of promising bits and pieces.

Stylish markers along the way

- The Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, University of East Anglia, Norwich Opened 1978 Glistening, aluminium-skinned arts centre, easily mistaken for aircraft hangar.
The Willis Faber Building Ipswich Opened 1975 Shiny black insurance company headquarters, in the shape of a grand piano, with a lawn on the roof and swimming pool in basement. Now Grade I-listed.
The Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank Hong Kong Opened 1986 Exposed steel skyscraper, with huge internal atrium and a remote-controlled sun scoop to bring light inside. Cost: £500 million.
Stansted Airport Cambridgeshire Opened 1991 Huge, white steel-and-glass minimalist temple with a vaulted-umbrella like roof.
Barcelona Communications Tower Opened in 1992 Looks like Tintin's rocket. A needle-thin mast held in position by steel cables.
Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre Glasgow Locals have dubbed it "the armadillo".
The Reichstag Berlin Due to open in 1998 Glass dome inserted behind classical facade.



Sir Norman Foster's Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, which is the tallest building in Asia

Bold mould breaking

Deyan Sudjic on an architectural concept that will cast a long shadow

UNLIKE his peers, who have struggled to erect tall imitations of North American originals, Sir Norman Foster is the only British architect to have built a convincing skyscraper. He did the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank tower, which he designed as if nobody had ever built a skyscraper before, going back to first principles to come up with a completely original building.

pear amid the chaos of the Hong Kong skyline, were it not for its site at the heart of the colony's Status Square, one of the only open spaces left on the waterfront. The Millennium Tower is another deliberate attempt to break out of the constraints of the conventional glass box, but there is no chance that it could disappear on London's skyline. Rather it will transform it for ever.

sculpted top to give it a distinctive personality. This, will not instantly know, where all the existing landmarks have disappeared, is still not Houston, Los Angeles or Tokyo; it's London. The city whose skyline is crowned by the tower with the V-shaped top, rather than the one with the pyramid of the Chippendale top. This is a building that will be gobsmackingly large. Its serpentine profile gives it narrow edges, but its facade, like a curtain stretched between two needle-thin, ultra-tall tent poles, will form the most dominant element.

Upper 40 to go sky high

continued from page 1 The new apartments would make fetch a "stomking price," he said. Life in high condominiums in New York, or even in the Belvedere penthouses in at the top of the pagoda-like 20-storey tower at Chelsea Harbour in London, where prices can be £3.5 million, was different, he pointed out, from being in a council tower block where the lifts were inclined not to work.

an IRA bomb four years ago, Sir Norman, aged 61, said: "Tall buildings are expressions of the energy and aspirations of world class modern cities." He went on: "The London Millennium Tower will be a statement of confidence in the City for the next century. Sunlight hitting the curved glass facade of the building would make it appear 'elegantly slender and provide a different view of the building from each side.'" Sir Norman said. The building would fit in with the skyline in the

heart of the City. It would not in any way stand out like "a stick of rhubarb." He added: "The thrill is doing it in London and not having to travel to other parts of the world. London deserves it." Alan Winter, of developers Trafalgar House, said: "There is a requirement for large new high-quality office buildings. It will also provide a landmark statement of the City of London's pre-eminence as Europe's financial capital." Lender comment, page 8

PARK YOURSELF AT THE PROMS. FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER THE LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS COMES TO HYDE PARK. ENJOY THE SPECTACLE, AND THE POMP & CIRCUMSTANCE, IN THE OPEN AIR. MARIA EWING, MARIA EWING, JAMES GALWAY AND THE LABOUE SISTERS PERFORM LIVE ON STAGE WITH THE BBC CONCERT ORCHESTRA. FOLLOWED BY A BIG SCREEN SHOWING OF THE LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS LIVE FROM THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL. HYDE PARK, SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER. GATES OPEN 4.00PM. TICKETS £250. CREDIT CARD HOTLINE 0171 413 3571.

مركزنا للتعليم

Unions scorn Dutch auction between Labour and Tories over restrictions on public sector workers

Tories raise strike stakes

Sourias Milne
Labour Editor

THE Tory party yesterday triggered a Dutch auction with Labour over restrictions on public sector strikes, when Ian Lang, the Trade and Industry Secretary, floated a proposal for a "cooling-off" period of up to one month before industrial action can be taken.

Mr Lang said the time had come to take Margaret Thatcher's step-by-step programme of legal curbs on unions "a little bit further."

Mr Blunkett's intervention had been calculated to draw the political sting of earlier leaks suggesting government ministers had been considering banning public sector strikes in response to this summer's post, rail and London Underground stoppages.

Just as Tony Blair arrives in Blackpool to tell union leaders that trade unionism lies in partnership and member services, rather than "strikes and conflict".

Strikes in seven regional railway companies are planned tomorrow by Rail Maritime and Transport (RMT) union members and strike ballot results will be announced for a further 10 companies on Thursday.

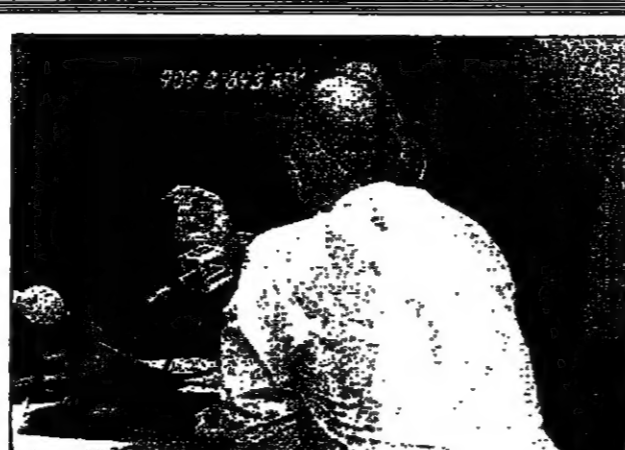
Mr Lang's latest electioneering gambit is to extend the one-week notice period unions have to give employers before they go on strike to two weeks or a month. But he added that strike bans in essential services had still not been ruled out: nor had Labour's idea of binding arbitration, though there was a danger, he said, of ending up with a "half-way house".

The Prime Minister added his own imprimatur to Mr Lang's musings, saying strikes were falling into disuse, and were "wholly inappropriate".

Union reaction at the TUC conference was fierce, with several officials warning that any further restrictions on industrial action risked leading to wildcat "anarchy".

John Monks, TUC general secretary, said the Government should be looking at getting rid of the "need to strike, rather than the right to strike". On the floor of the congress, Bill Morris, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said: "Labour is pointing the finger at the wrong people."

"In case you didn't notice, it was the employer who sacked the Tilbury dockers, despite a legal ballot. It was the employer who sacked the Liverpool dockers."



LOOK!

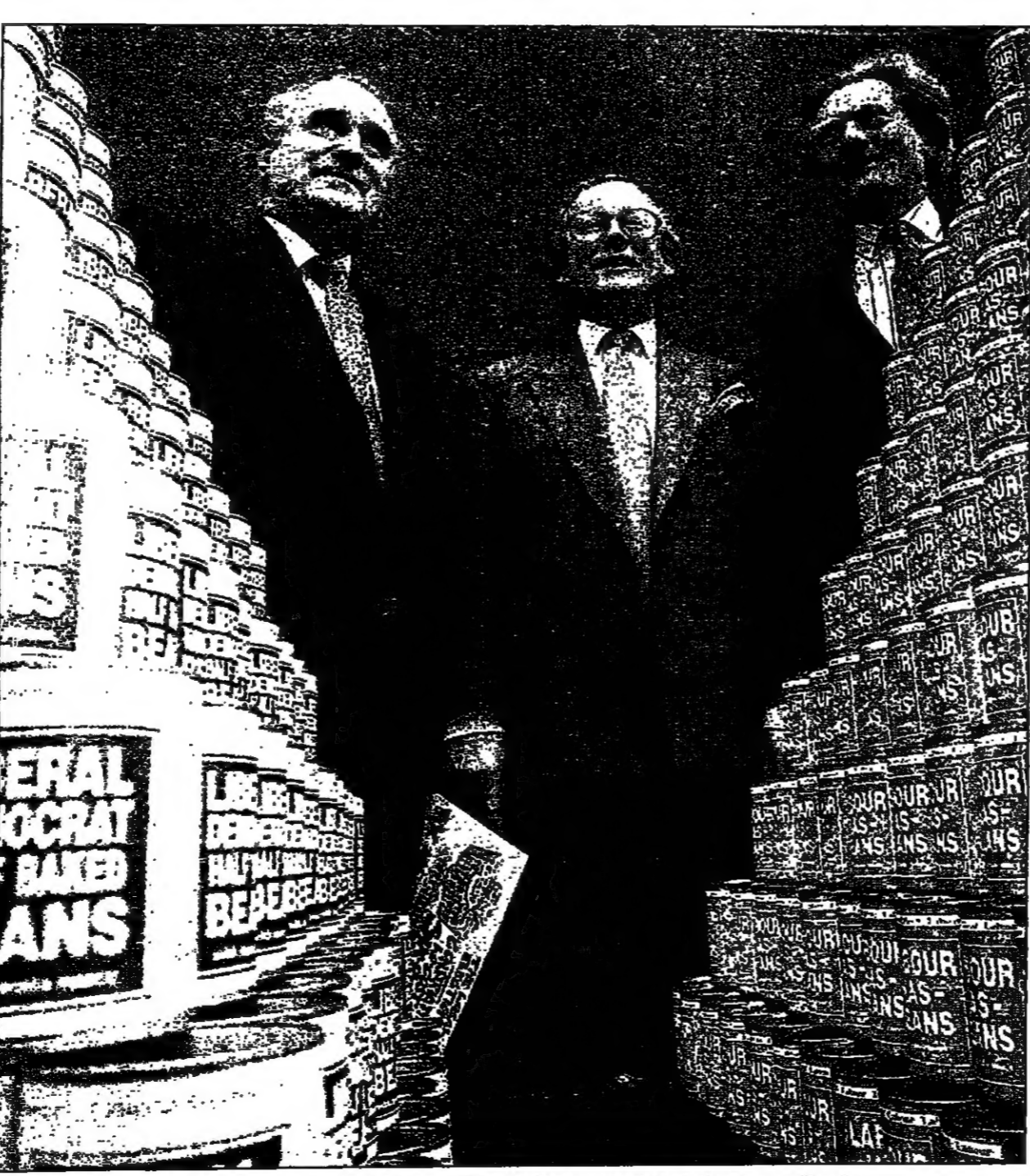
TAX BONANZA FOR MILLIONS

Spring is in the air as cash... Young

Cometh the man... taking over from Jeremy Hanley at Tory Party HQ; on the air at the BBC and (right) the good news tabloid Look!, which proved bad news for Mawhinney

Major's hard man turns off the voters

David Hencke on the dour Ulsterman who has managed to alienate even the blue-ribose Tories



Mr Mawhinney with John Gummer and Michael Heseltine at the launch of the baked bean offensive

BRIAN Mawhinney was brought in by John Major to be the Arnold Schwarzenegger of the Tory Party. A tough guy with a killer instinct when dealing with Labour.

But now, just over a year into his job as chairman of the party, the hard man of the hustings is doing no better than his wimpish ham-acting predecessor, Jeremy Hanley.

Far from being a box office hit with the voters, Mr Mawhinney is rated as doing a bad job by an astounding 85 per cent.

Even among the blue-rinsed loyalist vote, the second Ulsterman to make the Cabinet since Walpole's premiership, can only muster a 31 per cent approval rating.

Labour's equivalent of Big Arnie, John Prescott, who promotes Labour with tough talking and whirly hats, commands 55 per cent support.

Mr Mawhinney's final humiliation came yesterday with the Daily Telegraph poll showing that even 41 per cent of all Tory voters back Mr Prescott as doing a good job in putting over the anti-Tory case — 10 per cent above the Tory chairman's rating for bashing Labour.

How has Mr Mawhinney done so badly? The dour Ulster Protestant had an appalling reputation in the Department of Health and the Department of Transport.

"The ego has landed" was a regular catchphrase among civil servants when his plane landed.

"I can honestly say he was the most unpleasant man I've ever had the misfortune to work with," said another Department of Transport official. Those in the Department of Health said he was narrow-minded, prudish, stand-offish and had tempered. This came out when he banned the "smutty" safe sex guide issued by the now defunct Health Education Authority.

He can be charming to individual journalists, but the man who quaffs Lucozade Lite by the crate has little time for small talk and is not keen to take advice or expend too much time on research.

Except, of course, to calculate the anti-Tory swing in his Peterborough constituency, where after representing the new town for over a decade, he has now joined the chicken run by opting for a safe rural Cambridgeshire seat next door.

Even nearby Tory neighbours like Jerry Hayes, who plans to stand to the bitter

end to defend Harlow from rampaging Blairites, have privately felt his action was a stab in the back.

His year in Central Office has led to a series of gaffes in speeches and the mishandling of presentations to revive the Tories standing in the polls.

But he does have strong points. He is guaranteed to be loyal to John Major, and is

one of the most sleaze-free politicians in the Tory Party — the only member of the Cabinet who instructed his ministers to have nothing to do with lobbying companies.

He also has loyal spin doctors — Sheila Gunn, the former Times lobby correspondent and ex-mistress of former transport minister Steven Norris, and Charles

Levington, the former Sunday Express political editor.

But Mawhinney was never the favourite of Mr Norris, whose memoirs have been sold to the Daily Mail for a reputed £250,000. Tory insiders will be amazed if yet more Mawhinney gaffes do not emerge in the party faithful's favourite newspaper next month.

Chairman's blunders

BRIAN MAWHINNEY'S blunders landed him in trouble within months of him becoming party chairman on July 5, 1995.

October 10: Ridiculed Camden Council at the party conference for funding the Hopscotch Asian Women's Centre. It emerged the scheme was funded by the Home Office and Save The Children to teach childcare and basic literacy skills to Bangladeshi Women.

October 11: Angered judges by urging people who feel a sentence is too lenient to write in protest to the judge.

December 7: Confused a speaking engagement by the Lord Chancellor at the Guildhall with a cabinet document briefing ministers on Lord Mackay's views. The Telegraph printed a story saying Lord Mackay had warned judges not to overstep the mark in quashing ministers' decisions at the Guildhall when he had said nothing of the sort. The leak was traced back to Mawhinney.

February 12, 1996: He attributed remarks supporting the existing House of Lords to left-wing author and director Jonathan Miller confusing him with journalist Jonathan Miller who had penned them. The author Miller said afterwards: "The man is a fool."

April 17: Became furious on Radio 4's Today Programme on the day the local election campaign was launched when it was suggested the Tories would need to do something as dramatic as dumping Thatcher to win the next election.

Used mock baked bean tins to ridicule Labour and Lib-Dem tax plans.

April 18: Launched Look! as a good news tabloid which was derided by a number of the people it featured. Dorey Bussell, the ballerina, was portrayed as supporting the Government when she does not.

April 23: Infuriated pro-European MPs when he cancelled a conference organised by MEPs which he feared could attract Euro-sceptic criticism.

DEAR MR TAXMAN

THE GUARDIAN WEEKLY ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT SELF ASSESSMENT

I FEEL LEFT OUT

Dear Taxman I feel neglected, all my friends get tax returns to fill in but you have never sent me one. As I am now 32 years old is there something wrong with me? Ignored, COVENTRY.

TAXMAN SAYS Age has nothing to do with whether you get a tax return or not. We will send you a tax return if you are self-employed, a company director, or someone with more complex tax affairs. Most people don't get a tax return so you're certainly not alone. However, if you receive income that has not been taxed and you haven't been sent a tax return you must tell us. Call your Tax Office and talk to someone there if you are still worried. The telephone number is in the phone book under 'Inland Revenue'.

DO I NEED AN ACCOUNTANT?

Dear Taxman To date, I keep proper records, the new have always enjoyed handling system should make things easier. You may even find time for a more exciting hobby like collecting cheese labels.

AM I UP-TO-DATE?

Dear Taxman As soon as I buy clothes they immediately go out of style. I spend a fortune on an exotic holiday only to discover it was the place to go last year. I get rid of all my easy listening records, next day they are back in fashion. I am beginning to suspect that I may be just one of those people who is always behind the times. How can I be sure that I am up-to-date with my tax? Concerned, LEICESTER.

NO MORE TAX

Dear Taxman Is Self Assessment just a cunning way of wheedling more tax out of me? Paranoid, BARNES.

TAXMAN SAYS No. Self Assessment is not a new tax and does not affect the amount of tax you pay. It is just a clearer and more straightforward system for working out and paying tax.

How big is it?

Dear Taxman How big is the new Self Assessment tax form? I have a bad back and the doctor says I can't do any heavy lifting. Worried, BRADFORD.

TAXMAN SAYS From next April most people will get a basic, slim-line, eight-page tax return, along with any extra pages we think you may need. If, for example, you are self-employed, there will be four extra pages to fill in. You will get a full list of the supplementary pages available and if you think any apply to you, you'll have plenty of time to send off for them. Guidance notes to help you fill in your tax return and work out your own tax bill — if you want to — will be sent out with the forms.

Please send me more information about Self Assessment. Please tick a box if you are: Self-employed Employed A Pensioner Seeking work

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

Revenue
Self Assessment - a clearer tax system
PLEASE RETURN COUPON TO: SELF ASSESSMENT PO BOX 555 BRISTOL BS99 5UJ

Boswell was an atrocious gossip. He had the virtue in a biographer of bad taste, which is to say he was not imposed on by the polite fashions of his day. But then, in the nineteenth century, came earnestness. Biography was crucially infected by the blight of Victorianism.
Michael Holroyd

G2 page 8

Drugs cash 'buys power'

Richard Thomas
Economics Correspondent

THE West is fighting an uphill battle against international drug smugglers as the leading cartels use the annual \$500 billion proceeds of their illegal trade to buy off leading politicians and officials, the head of Interpol said yesterday.

Ray Kendall, formerly assistant deputy commissioner of the Metropolitan police, warned that the drugs barons were evading detection and capture by burrowing into the political fabric of the developed world.

On the day that police at

Heathrow seized 180kg of cocaine with a street value of \$30 million in the hold of a jet on a routine flight from South America, Mr Kendall said that a "dimension shift" had occurred in the fight against corruption.

The Interpol secretary general told a conference of more than 800 international law enforcement officers and prosecutors in Cambridge: "The most severe threat today is the enormous economic resources in the possession of organised crime elements."

The \$500 billion estimate of the annual proceeds of drug trafficking is only slightly less than the UK's gross domestic product, and Mr Kendall said it allowed the criminals

that controlled the trade to "reach to the highest levels of our institutions. You can only corrupt people if you have the capability to do it."

Mr Kendall's warning was followed by a call from David Bickford, former legal adviser to M15 and M16, for the UK government to abolish secret offshore banking, which he said was a key weapon of organised crime.

"The only justification for offshore bank secrecy is the economic benefit derived from these offshore centres," he said. "That this justification is put forward at all is an example of the overwhelming influence of organised crime."

leless!
breaking
go sky high
ELF
MS

4 BRITAIN

News in brief

Man arrested after fatal London blast

A MAN of 50 was arrested in Ealing, west London, yesterday following an explosion in a four-storey building there in which one man died and two other people were seriously injured.

According to firefighters, a fire after the explosion — which police are treating as possible arson — caused a gas explosion in the early hours of yesterday morning. It blew out the front of the building which contained a grocer's shop on the ground floor and flats above it. Several cars parked outside were also damaged.

The dead man, who has not yet been named, was found on the second floor. Another man, aged 24, and a woman of 25 who escaped by jumping off from the top storey as neighbours looked on were last night described as critical in hospital with serious burns and other injuries. Two others in the building at the time were also taken to hospital suffering from shock and minor injuries, while more than 20 people living nearby were evacuated from their homes. Raymond Campbell, who lives near the scene of the explosion said: "There were some people standing on the pavement and I could see a couple on top of the building. Some guys were screaming at them to jump and they just leapt off the top storey, falling on to the pavement below." — *Vivek Chaudhary*

Japanese firm race case

A FORMER senior executive at a Japanese finance firm in the City of London yesterday accused the bosses of racial discrimination. Brian Mooyart, 49, of Faversham, Kent, told an industrial tribunal in Bury, St Edmunds, Suffolk, that bosses at Sakura Finance International treated non-Japanese staff like "second class citizens". He said the firm operated "what would appear to be a blatantly racial, doctrinal tract" and that when he questioned one of his bosses about this he was told it was "a fact of life".

The tribunal heard Mr Mooyart allege he was overlooked for a department head's job, which went to an Oriental rival, and that less skilled managers had on more than one occasion arrived from Tokyo and been placed above him. Mr Mooyart, whose case is being funded by the Commission for Racial Equality, claims unfair dismissal against the securities house, where he worked between 1987 and 1995. The company denies racial discrimination and the hearing is expected to last until Friday.

Fondling ex-head jailed

THE former headmaster of a Devon boarding school was yesterday jailed for three years at Bristol crown court after being convicted of indecently assaulting boys in his care. Robert Hay, a 42-year-old father of two, was convicted in July on seven charges of indecent assault involving six pupils aged nine to 12. The assaults took place between August 1992 and June of last year.

During the 10-day trial the court heard how Hay visited the boys' dormitories after lights out and fondled them as they lay in bed pretending to be asleep. The school cannot be named for legal reasons. Hay, who is seeking leave to appeal, maintained during the trial he had done nothing indecent to any of the boys. — *Geoffrey Gibbs*

Police check on union cash

POLICE were yesterday asked to investigate the finances of the GMB general union in the North following the departure of a senior official amid complaints of irregularities. In calling for tough action, the union's 80-strong central executive council also decided to sack Nick Anderson, GMB northern regional secretary until two weeks ago. Mr Anderson, 56, who was also northern regional chairman of the Labour Party, had opted to take early retirement when an auditor's report raised "serious matters of concern". A union official has suggested that extravagance rather than dishonesty is at issue.

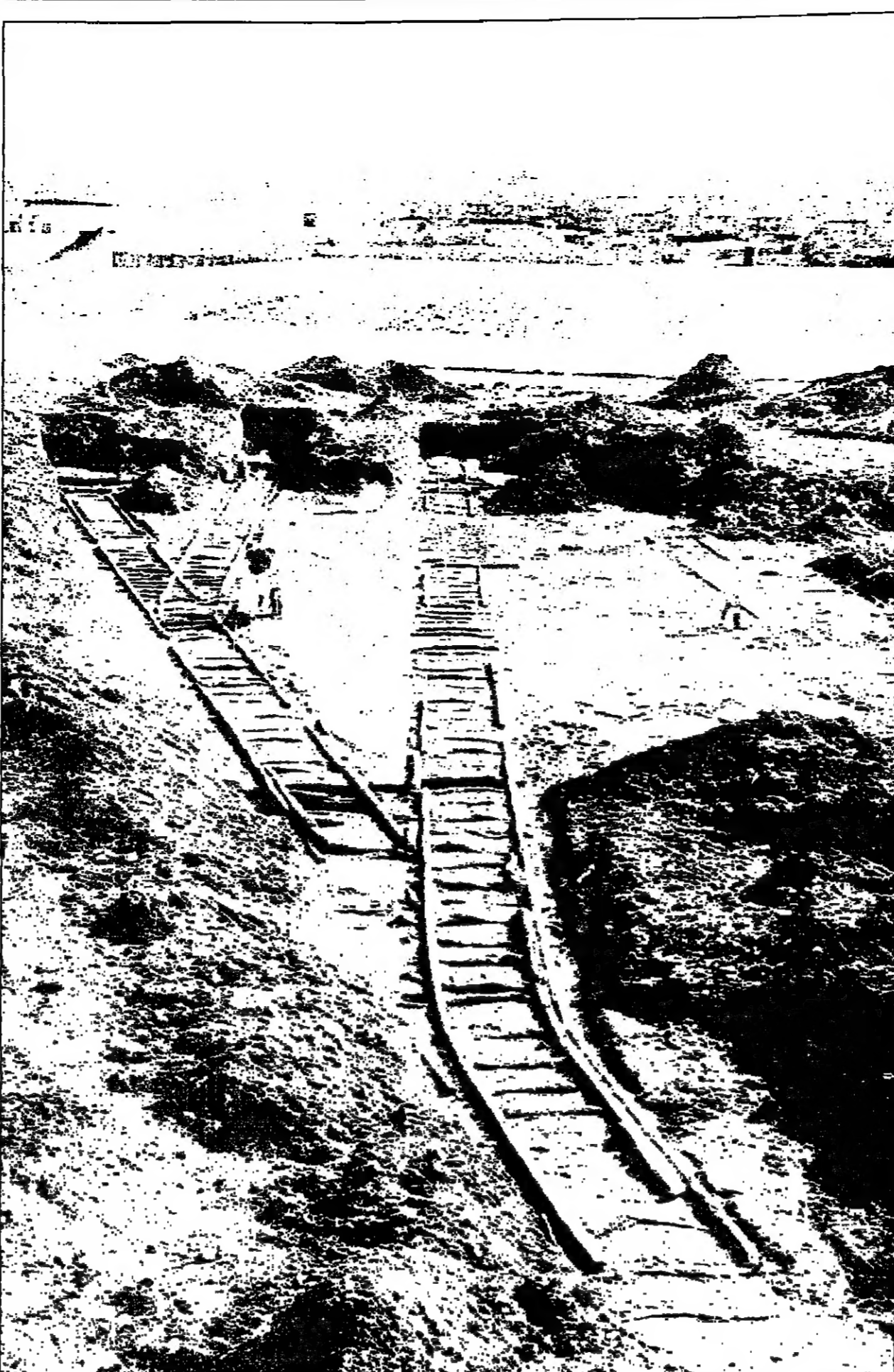
Botham libel appeal

CRICKETER Ian Botham is to appeal and seek a retrial after losing his 13-day libel case against Imran Khan, his lawyer said yesterday. Botham, who with fellow cricketer Allan Lamb sought damages against the former Pakistan captain, is appealing on the grounds that the jury was misled during the High Court libel action, which they lost in July — leaving them with an estimated \$400,000 legal bill. Botham and Lamb had sued Khan for libel, claiming he branded them cheats and racists. A spokesman for Botham's solicitors said Lamb was still considering his position.

'Rogue' Tory stepping down

JOHN Carlisle, one of John Major's most troublesome backbenchers and the member for Luton North who threatened to challenge him for the Tory leadership, is to step down as an MP after 17 years at the general election in order to return to business. He becomes the 57th sitting Tory MP to step down at the election, and Labour seized on the news as the latest example of a Tory MP deserting a seat that will become marginal as a result of boundary changes. — *Rebecca Smithers*

Oldest wooden railway found preserved by coal waste



ONE of the oldest surviving railway networks in the country has been found under the remains of an old coke works on the outskirts of Sunderland, writes Peter Hetherington.

Perfectly preserved under layers of coal dust and hardened colliery waste, it includes 400 metres of wooden rails dating from 1780 — and grouped to form sidings.

Railway buffs yesterday said the discovery pushed the frontiers of industrial history back by a considerable period. "This could well be the oldest surviving

system in the world," enthused Andrew Scott, director of the National Railway Museum at York.

A makeshift points system linking five separate tracks, and one of the first examples of iron rails, probably made around 1820, have been uncovered.

The discovery, on the 150-acre site of the Lambton coke works, which closed in the mid-1980s, was made when an excavator driver uncovered a few wooden rails during site reclamation.

Sunderland council secretly alerted archaeologists

and excavation revealed the finest example of an old wooden wagonway.

Keith Hamilton, the council's conservation manager, said the site was revealing the continuing history of railways from the first wooden track, through to iron rails — and then on to full locomotion.

So far about 70 metres has been found, but another 330 is believed to be lying close to the surface. After archaeologists had photographed and videoed the rails, they were quickly recovered to prevent deterioration.

Now Sunderland council, which financed the dig, needs another £10,000 so that archaeologists can complete their investigations before winter.

Cash from the Heritage Lottery fund to pay for a feasibility study is being sought.

The problem now is what to do with the site, which lies on the route of a proposed bypass. Some, like Mr Hamilton, think the area should be declared a National Heritage site, while others say sections of track might be distributed to various museums.

Group aims to clean up Internet

Robin Hunt

A N INTERNET entrepreneur is to launch a foundation next month whose aim is to eliminate "99.9 per cent of child pornography on the Internet in the UK".

Peter Daw, founder of Unipalm Pipex, which he recently sold for a reputed £35 million, announced yesterday the formation of Safety Net to "hinder the distribution of illegal material on the Internet". The service which includes a hotline, will allow anyone to report incidents of pornography and copyright infringements.

The announcement coincided with a claim by a lawyer that a UK regulatory body for the Internet will be in place "within a year". Nick Higham, a partner at Denton Hall said yesterday: "The Internet service providers will be given a few months to clean up their act. If they don't make progress we will see increased police activity, and then a Private Member's Bill to test the water." He said a regulatory body was likely.

Mr Daw, who describes himself as an interested citizen, said his initiative was because "there has to be action now, the public sentiment is there". He hoped his foundation would offer a two-tier service: providing net users with a focus for complaints and offering Internet service providers a range of commercial services to clean up their web sites.

These services are: a classification process of the various newsgroups which carry information (it is these which have caused most widespread public alarm, as some carry explicit child and adult pornography).

Safety Net will also offer to search for material which has been complained about, and classify it against its own checklist. There will be a service to build filters against pornographic and other types of material, and a pre-empted news service which has already removed articles that will bring distress or break the law.

The announcement, at an Internet and Censorship seminar run by the Internet Developers Association, was welcomed by Superintendent Mike Hoskins of the child and vice unit of the Metropolitan Police.

Home Office sources confirmed yesterday that an inter-departmental working group is examining pornography on the Internet as part of a wider brief to investigate obscenities.

Earlier Mr Hoskins, a member of the Home Office working party, had suggested that Internet service providers who make child pornography available on the net are committing offences.

The technical issues are highly complex child pornographers are able to disguise the material to other newsgroups anonymously.

The commercially minded of the net community came out strongly in favour of censorship, but the service providers are most worried. "For those people who build web sites, of course they want the web cleaned up," said one. "I'm more worried about going to jail."

John Browning, executive editor of Wired magazine in the UK, said news groups on the Internet are not published per se, but are like parks into which anyone can venture. Mr Hoskins disagrees. News groups, he says, are like libraries, and the librarian is the Internet service provider.

Cliff Stanford, founder of Demon Internet, a service provider that has been the focus of much of the debate about child pornography, suggested a hotline to the DTI. "With a lot of hard work we will make something happen," he said.

Others were not so sure. A spokeswoman for Feminists Against Censorship, and David Webb of the National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Act, both claimed this was an attempt to establish an arbitrary system of regulation. Others called it an attempt to impose a quango by the back door.

Mr Daw disagreed, but said that while it was not an objective of the foundation to become the official UK classification and censorship body, it was a possibility. Mr Daw said if that happened he would stand down.

Discarded gun goes off in hands of boy aged 10

Nick Varley

POLICE were last night conducting forensic tests on a semi-automatic handgun which was fired by a 10-year-old boy after children found it dumped in an alley.

Adam Walsh was playing hide-and-seek with friends when a seven-year-old discovered the weapon in undergrowth near their homes in Coventry.

The children thought it was a toy but were not sure if it was a water pistol or a cap gun. They decided to take it back to Adam's home, yards away, to ask his mother.

But as Adam walked to the front door carrying the Colt self-loading pistol it went off. The bullet hit the door frame.

His mother, Deborah, aged 30, said: "They had carried it all the way round to the front of my house unaware that it was real and had bullets inside."

"It was then that Adam's finger must have touched the trigger and it went off. I heard the bang and went outside to see Adam just standing there looking so shocked."

"It wasn't until I saw the bullet embedded in the wall that I realised it was a real gun."

There were other children standing around and any one of them could have been killed.

"I just hope the police can get some fingerprints off the gun and put away whoever dumped it there."

Firearms experts said the weapon, a 7.65mm semi-automatic pistol could kill at more than 50 yards.

Police are now checking whether it had been used in a crime before being dumped.

Sgt Steve Craddock, of Coventry CID, said: "This could have had far more tragic consequences."

County Durham to Dusseldorf taxi fare worth £600 minus tip

Owen Bowcott

PART-TIME cabbie Gary Chisholm was used to running fares around his home town of Peterlee, County Durham, as sometimes as far afield as Newcastle. Then six unemployed building workers walked in and asked to be taken to work — near Dusseldorf.

Gary and his employers, Phillips Taxis, thought they were joking until the men produced £600 and said they needed to be in Germany the following day to carry out asbestos-stripping work.

The day-long 750-mile ride ended without a tip because the men, from Hartlepool and Barrow, were so short of cash.

But the taxi company was not complaining. "The North-east isn't the best place to find work," said the firm's manager, Mick Lister, aged 49, "and when these lads got the chance they weren't going to be stopped."

"We were glad to help them make it to the site on time. But Gary needed a day off when he reached home."

Most of those who travel to Germany's building projects — as celebrated in the television series Auf Wiedersehen Pet — nowadays rely on scheduled flights or own a vehicle.

"These lads had thought about taking a flight but realised it would be far more expensive when you added in all the local taxi rides," said Mr Lister. "Their final destination was 90 miles south of Dusseldorf. So they decided to go for a door-to-door service."

Mirren picks up first Emmy

Vivek Chaudhary

ACTRESS Helen Mirren picked up her first Emmy award on another successful night for Britain at America's premier television awards ceremony.

Ms Mirren was named best lead actress at the ceremony in Pasadena for her role as a police inspector in Prime Suspect: Secret Darkness.

She told the audience at the 48th Emmy awards ceremony, American television's equivalent of the Oscars: "I'd like to thank Cagney and Lacey, who led the way. I'm dead chuffed. That means I'm very, very pleased in American."

Railway buffs yesterday said the discovery pushed the frontiers of industrial history back by a considerable period. "This could well be the oldest surviving



Award winners... Helen Mirren and Alan Rickman



Greta Scacchi being named best supporting actress for her part in the historical drama.

Channel Four's Gulliver's Travels won five awards, including best mini-series while the hugely popular science fiction series The X-Files also won five awards.

Medical drama ER won the top drama award while Dennis Franz picked up two Emmys, one as outstanding lead actor for his portrayal of hard-boiled detective Andy Sipowicz in NYPD Blue and the other for best dramatic actor.

There was, however, some disappointing news for British stars. Tracey Ullman was narrowly beaten in the best variety, music or comedy special with her Best of Tracey Takes On comedy show missing out.

Angela Lansbury, who has been nominated for an Emmy 16 times without winning, once again failed to pick up an award for her role in the Murder She Wrote series.

The award for best dramatic actress went instead to Kathy Barker in the series Picket Fences.

Singer Tony Bennett won his first Emmy for best performance in a variety or music programme.

The ceremony was watched by an estimated world-wide television audience of 600 million.

It's easy to save on your mortgage.

- No arrangement fee • 3% discount
- No valuation fee • No legal fees

Move to Woolwich Direct.

3.99% (4.0% APR)

You'll save on time too. You see, it's easy to move your mortgage to Woolwich Direct. Wherever you are, at home or at work, just pick up the phone and we'll give you a quote instantly for our new Fee Saver Plus Mortgage. There's a real saving compared with our standard variable rate mortgage. So why not spend a few minutes finding out how much extra you could have to spend each month? Call us now quoting ref: GV109.

WE'RE STRAIGHT DOWN THE LINE

0645 75 75 75

WOOLWICH DIRECT

HOME INSURANCE DIRECT

PROTECT YOUR HOME CALL NOW.

0800 300 800

CONNECTIONS

WARRANTY

NEW! SHAWNS FURNISHED TRUSS LINDEN HOME SECURE FURTHER INFORMATION VISIT WWW.HOMEINSURANCEDIRECT.CO.UK OR CALL 0800 300 800. PLEASE MAKE US AWARE WHEN YOU CALL.

Before you buy a stairlift talk to Stannah. You can't afford not to.

CALL FREEPHONE 0800 715129

Stannah Stairlifts

مکان العمل

Unruly pupil school hit by boycott

Donald MacLeod
Education Correspondent

PARENTS withdrew more than 30 children yesterday from the Nottinghamshire junior school where a disruptive boy is receiving individual tuition after a strike threat by teachers.

A compromise agreement between the governing body of Manton junior school, Worksop, and the teachers' union was jeopardised by protests from other parents demanding that the 10-year-old be removed from the school.

Matthew Wilson was twice expelled by the headteacher for disruptive behaviour, but was reinstated by the governors. Members of the National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers refused to teach him this term, but after talks arranged by the local authority Matthew returned to the school yesterday to be taught by a supply teacher at a cost of £14,000 a year.

Nottinghamshire county council made no comment yesterday, but it is understood a meeting with parents is to be arranged. The dispute could now escalate as local authorities threaten teachers with court action.

A petition signed by 150 people has called for the boy's removal from the school. "They are taking our children's money to pay for him to have a one-to-one teacher. These children won't go back until he is out of the school," said one mother.

Under the deal agreed between governors and union leaders, Matthew was escorted into school when other pupils and staff were in their classrooms. A teacher gave him lessons and was due to

escort him home before other pupils broke for lunch. Matthew also has to abide by a contract of good behaviour.

Matthew's mother, Pamela Cliffe, denies her son is violent, and only agreed to have him taught in isolation to prevent a strike closing the 190-pupil school. Her solicitor Steven Williams, who proposed a meeting of parents and teachers, said: "She is now upset that he is being given no incentive to improve his behaviour. Not being allowed to play with other kids is a hell of a punishment."

Nigel de Gruchy, the union's general secretary, said he understood the concerns of parents and conceded that the solution "is very far from ideal". The £14,000 being spent on Matthew's education was the only way of keeping the school open.

Teachers' leaders yesterday accused ministers of breaking promises to strengthen school security made after the Dunblane massacre and the murder of head teacher Philip Lawrence, writes *John Corbett*.

Cillian Sheppard, the Education and Employment Secretary, told the National Union of Teachers that any extra funds for security measures must come out of general educational grants — leaving local authorities to pick up 40 per cent of the cost.

Doug McAvo, the general secretary, said none of the money would be available in the present financial year and there was no commitment to continued funding. "They are doing nothing, and they are doing it slowly."

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said local authorities did not have the money this year and could not afford a 40 per cent share.

British Association annual science festival in Birmingham



A schoolboy experiments with an exhibit at the British Association festival in Birmingham yesterday

PHOTOGRAPHY GAVIN FOGG

Radar uncovers buried Roman city

In brief

Jane Alfred

ARCHAEOLOGISTS have unearthed a "British Pompeii" without putting a spade into the ground, they revealed at the British Association's annual science festival in Birmingham, which opened yesterday.

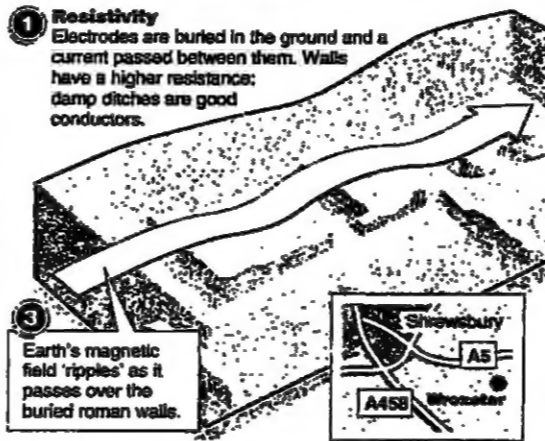
They described how remote surveying techniques produced plans of city life Wroxeter which was discovered a few kilometres from the Shropshire town of Shrewsbury and was the fourth largest city in Roman Britain. It was inhabited for more than four hundred years.

"There's still a place for spades in archaeology," said Simon Buteaux, director of field archaeology at Birmingham University. "These images give you a plan, but it's not like coming into contact with the real thing. Because spades are so expensive, so destructive, we need to complement them with other techniques."

Archaeologists used magne-

Digging without spades

An archaeological dig at Wroxeter, near Shrewsbury, is pioneering new ways of digging up the past. All the data from the various surveys are fed through a computer which builds a 3D model of the site, in this case a Roman town.



Ground penetrating radar

The same principle as that used to detect aircraft except the radio waves are 'fed' into the ground. The time it takes for the echo to return suggests the depth of the denser (usually stone) objects in among the lighter soil.

Resistivity

Electrodes are buried in the ground and a current passed between them. Walls have a higher resistance: damp ditches are good conductors.

Magnetometry

Dense objects buried underground cause minute distortions to the earth's magnetic field. The survey team criss-cross the site using a fluxgate gradiometer, a device highly sensitive to magnetic fields.

Using these techniques the archaeologists have unearthed hidden traces of houses, shops, streets and even a Roman church. They have also found the remains of a fire which swept through the city, destroying market stalls and buildings.

"With a place like Wroxeter you can't realistically dig the whole city, so you've got to use these techniques to combine with the archaeology," Mr Buteaux said.

Wroxeter gradually decayed but remained complete in plan after being abandoned in medieval times for Shrewsbury.

"It's going to be places like Wroxeter that can give us the whole plan of a city life," said Mr Buteaux.

"That's what Wroxeter offers, which very few places can."

The archaeologists ultimately hope to produce a virtual reality experience of the city which the public can use to wander through the streets and buildings of Virconium Cornoviorum, as the Romans called Wroxeter.

TECHNIQUES for suppressing nitric oxide in the blood vessel walls could save 100,000 lives a year, scientists revealed yesterday. There are 200,000 cases of septic shock in Britain and Europe each year: 40 to 50 per cent of which result in death.

Nitric oxide is a natural agent which controls blood pressure and is an agent in the treatment of heart attacks. Blood pressure rises as the nitric oxide level in the body falls, and this suggested new treatments for hypertension, diabetes and cholesterol disorders. But, Salvador Moncada, of the University College London, told the festival yesterday that it was now understood that patients in septic shock were over-producing nitric oxide. — *Tim Radford*

THE Wellcome Trust charity yesterday announced a science writing prize that would be "bigger than the Booker".

The winner — who will be a scientist who has not hitherto written a popular science book — would get £25,000 in instalments to write a book about the work to which they had devoted their career. Entrants will submit to the judges a chapter and a synopsis of their planned book.

ONE hundred million years ago, Antarctica was covered with forest, and vegetarian dinosaurs browsed on deciduous leaves. There were large rivers and catastrophic floods which covered trees and animals in mud, leaving them as fossils to be excavated by scientists today. Now more than 99 per cent of the continent lies under ice, in places nearly three miles deep.

David Cannell, of the British Antarctic Survey, told the festival yesterday: "The forests seem to indicate some sort of temperate climate. You have deciduous types of leaves, and the growth rings preserved in the wood tell us there is a seasonal climate. Continental drift ended it all." — *Tim Radford*

Dead conductor faced sex case

Alan Watkins

ARENOVED choral conductor had been charged with indecency involving a child under 16 the day before he plunged to his death from a road bridge.

Christopher Barnett, aged 37, of Halesworth, Suffolk, was told police were investigating two other allegations against him.

For the past 12 years Mr Barnett was director of the Wenhamston boys' choir, whose patron is composer Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber.

A police statement yesterday confirmed that officers from the Suffolk special offences team had charged and released him on police bail "pending further inquiries into two other indecency allegations of a similar nature".

The forces said a joint police and social services inquiry into the allegations would continue and revealing that letters are to be sent to the parents of other children believed to have been at risk, urging them to speak to their sons and to contact the police if they have any concerns.

Mr Barnett was found dead on the banks of the River Orwell last Thursday after apparently throwing himself off the 160 ft high bridge on the A12. The alarm was raised after his car was found parked nearby. His death occurred on the eighth birthday of one of his two sons.

Detective Chief Inspector Andrew Ravasio, who is leading the police inquiry, said: "Through his work Mr Barnett had contact with a lot of

young people. Despite his death, we still have an ongoing inquiry and we also still have a very real responsibility to ensure that young people who may have been victims get the appropriate counselling.

"This is obviously a very sensitive area, but our first priority must be to make sure that any boys who come forward get the correct help. All such cases will be dealt with in the strictest confidence and treated with the utmost sensitivity. There is no need for anyone to attend a police station as we have specialist facilities to allow us to speak to people in private."

Mr Barnett had helped his choir to many international successes, including a recent appearance at the Vatican before the Pope and a concert at the White House. The choir regularly performed at Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral.

In a statement shortly after his death, the choir praised Mr Barnett for creating a musical environment which had "enriched the lives of many young people". A meeting is to be held with parents to discuss the future of the choir which is made up of boys drawn from north Suffolk.

Prayers were said for Mr Barnett at many local churches over the weekend. As well as the Wenhamston choir, he also worked with up to 17 other choral ensembles and had built an international reputation as a choir trainer.

Police said there were no suspicious circumstances. An inquest will be held.

Research 'golden egg'

Tim Radford
Science Editor

A LEADING scientist last night warned the Government that "ignorant and insensitive" plans to manage university research on business lines "would kill a goose that was still laying golden eggs".

Sir Ronald Oxburgh, rector of Imperial College, London, and president of the festival, said universities made a significant contribution to wealth and security by spontaneous, undirected research.

"Even the best foresight panel in the world is going to be unlikely to identify the one coming from left field, the unexpected: penicillin, or BSE," he said.

Laser research began in university physics departments, and had become the

centre of an enormous industry. Universities helped Britain's invisible exports. Some 80,000 foreign post-graduate researchers, in Britain because of the international reputation of its universities and laboratories, provided £1

same number of research workers with PhDs as they do. But the real contribution of university research to national well-being was probably impossible to measure. Should it be judged by the value scientists had for industry, of the creation of jobs? Or the way it broadened and informed public debate on scientific and ethical matters?

"Or is it to be judged by the contribution research makes to the underlying knowledge that human beings have of their universe, themselves and other forms of life?"

Science and technology were more important now than at any time in history, Sir Ronald said. "That is the message of global warming, of modern fertility treatment, of Brest Spar, of BSE."

British Impresario: Education, page 10

Asian entrepreneurs hope offspring will move into professional careers

Chris Mihill

THE entrepreneurial drive of Britain's Asian businessmen may run out of steam as their children go into professional careers, researchers say today.

Asian shopkeepers and small businessmen, praised for their get-up-and-go by Baroness Thatcher, often chose self-employment not to become rich but because of a lack of job opportunities. Many want their children to go into careers like medicine or law.

A survey of 129 businesses by Tariq Modood, Hilary Metcalfe and Satnam Virdee of the Policy Studies Institute, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, found that half had increased turnover since setting up, but a fifth had seen a decrease.

Pakistanis were generally less successful than African Asians or Indians.

One in four British Asians is self-employed, twice the proportion for the white population. Among Pakistanis, in particular, most said they set up businesses because of a lack of local jobs or racism in the employment market.

"There was a fairly strong feeling amongst all Asians that they did not want their children to carry on their business. Half were against them doing this with only one fifth in favour, suggesting that the boom in self-employment may be about to run out of steam," the report says.

Many businesses remained one-man operations or relied on family labour. However, the 12 largest between them employed nearly 300 people.

Nearly half the businesses were in the retail sector.

ONE hundred million years ago, Antarctica was covered with forest, and vegetarian dinosaurs browsed on deciduous leaves. There were large rivers and catastrophic floods which covered trees and animals in mud, leaving them as fossils to be excavated by scientists today. Now more than 99 per cent of the continent lies under ice, in places nearly three miles deep.

David Cannell, of the British Antarctic Survey, told the festival yesterday: "The forests seem to indicate some sort of temperate climate. You have deciduous types of leaves, and the growth rings preserved in the wood tell us there is a seasonal climate. Continental drift ended it all." — *Tim Radford*

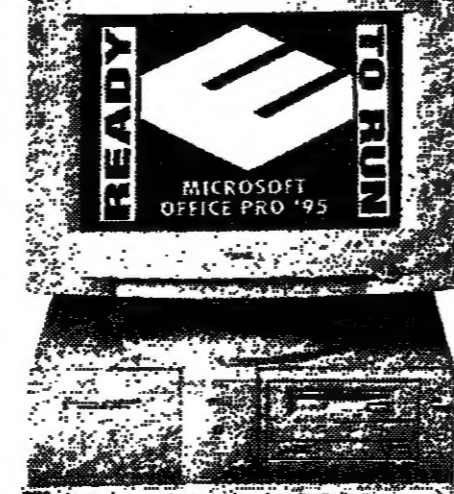
'It is not possible to measure the contribution of university research'

... billion a year in foreign earnings.

Britain was a world leader in producing research scientists. "With a population about a fifth that of the US and a research spend of about a tenth, we produce nearly the

Red hot technology. Prices to keep you in the black.

- DELL DIMENSION XPS P1666
- INTEL® 166MHz PENTIUM® PROCESSOR
- INTEL 430MX PCISET
- 16Mb SDRAM
- NOW 512Kb PIPELINE BURST CACHE
- NOW 1.6Gb HARD DRIVE
- STB POWERGRAPH 64-BIT PCI GRAPHICS CARD WITH 2Mb VIDEO MEMORY
- 15" COLOUR SVGA MONITOR (13.75" VIEWABLE AREA)
- EIGHT SPEED CD-ROM DRIVE
- INTEGRATED 16-BIT SOUND (SPEAKERS OPTIONAL)
- 3 PCI, 2 ISA AND 1 PCI/ISA SHARED EXPANSION SLOTS
- MID-SIZED DESKTOP CHASSIS
- MICROSOFT WINDOWS 95
- MICROSOFT OFFICE PROFESSIONAL 95
- DELL HOUSE AND KEYBOARD



Designed for Microsoft Windows 95

With its 166MHz Pentium® Processor and pre-loaded Microsoft® Office Professional 95, the Dell Dimension™ XPS P1666 offers you red hot business technology for a cool £1,299 (£1,555.70 incl. VAT & delivery). But for a limited period (until 14th September 1996), we're offering even more for your budget, by reducing prices on a whole range of upgrades for this system only. So call the world's largest direct computer manufacturer* now on 01344 724669. And strike while the iron's hot.

Upgrade to:	Special Price	Discount
Extra 16Mb SDRAM	£150 (£176.25 incl. VAT)	25%
Extra 16Mb SDRAM & 17" Monitor (15.65" vis)	£350 (£411.25 incl. VAT)	29%

DELL®

TALK DIRECT TO THE NUMBER ONE.

01344 724669

Between 9am and 8pm weekdays, 10am to 4pm Sat.

£1,299 (£1,555.70 incl. delivery + VAT)

Dell and the Dell logo are registered trademarks and Dell Dimension is a trademark of Dell Computer Corporation. Intel, Intel Inside, Pentium are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation. Microsoft, Windows, Office Professional 95 and the Windows logo are registered trademarks of the Microsoft Corporation. Delivery is charged at £25 - VAT per system. Prices correct as date of publication. Dell Retail is offered (subject to stock) to business ending 1 year or more. The photograph product may not always match the specifications in this advert. Prices quoted refer to specifications (however only the prices listed are available at the time of going to press. Prices change frequently. All prices and specifications are subject to change without prior notice or obligation. *Worldwide price options, applicable when added to the configuration at time of order only. Special rates on orders received before 31/12/96. Dell Computer Corporation Ltd, Whitehouse, Wotton Bassett, Stockley Park, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB11 1JD. Offer available for a limited period only.

oup aims
clean up
ernet

ded
es off
ds of
ed 10

Before you buy
talk to Stannish
You can't
afford not to.

0800
15129

The president's fiery populism has begun to turn authoritarian, reports David Hearst in Minsk

Belarus adrift with bully at the helm



Lukashenko: 'President who is usurping all power'

HE IS known as "Lukcastro", and every other month he disconnects an independent radio station from its transmitter or freezes the funds of independent newspapers. He bullies parliament, bans demonstrations and issues decrees on the length of time state officials should be on their radio telephones. He is Alexander Lukashenko, a fiery orator catapulted to the Belarus presidency in July 1994 on a wave of popular discontent with economic decline, who has since become his small country's main hate figure. "I am often criticised for apparently authoritarian methods of management, but I don't think this is right," Mr Lukashenko told a Russian newspaper. "Yes, sometimes I

act firmly, decisively. I declare a target and I do everything to achieve it. But this is not authoritarianism. This is inevitability." What is inevitable is a clash with parliament, which the 41-year-old president plans to neuter in a way which would make Russia's president, Boris Yeltsin, seem liberal. On November 7, President Lukashenko plans to hold a referendum on a new constitution which would extend his term of office for two and a half years, give him the power to choose an upper chamber of parliament to give presidential decrees the force of law, and allow him to appoint half the members of the constitutional court and central election committee. It's a familiar story in the post-Soviet world and it may well end in a familiar way:

with an armed stand-off and talk of a "state coup". Mr Lukashenko's propensity for hands-on management has united a fractured opposition. The communists and nationalists — who once supported him for his promises to reunite Belarus with Russia — now speak of him in much the same tones as the nationalist rightwing Belarusian Popular Front, two of whose leaders have obtained political asylum in the United States. The former chairman of the national bank of Belarus, Stanislav Bagandevich, has proposed impeaching the president and parties in parliament are this week forming a campaign to scrap the presidency and create a parliamentary democracy. Gennady Karpyenko, the deputy speaker of parliament,

said: "A broad circle of politicians in Belarus are uniting against a president who is simply usurping all power." Mr Lukashenko has threatened to dissolve parliament if it does not approve the November 7 referendum date. He has presided over a stagnating economy, which shrunk by 10 per cent last year and is only held together by Russia's decision to waive \$500 million of debts. But these problems cannot all be attributed to Mr Lukashenko, who came to power on a popular wave of economic re-integration with Russia. His nationalist opponents decide him for scrapping the national flag and reconstituting the Soviet one and for making Russian once again the official language. But for the vast majority of the 10 million people in the

country, independence from Russia has made little sense. The republic used to be wealthy, functioning as a giant assembly factory for the Soviet Union. This is not a nation that feels it has "won" independence from Russia — it has had the link severed. Russia is now wary of taking on responsibility for the wrecked Belarus economy, and with Western aid seizing up there is little chance of help on the way. Belarus is caught in a trap: shunned by the West and neglected by Russia, its independence has brought it the worst of both worlds. Its best-known writer, Vasil Bykov, says: "My forecast of gloom. I see a despotism coming of a more fascist form. The communists were at least civilised in their fight against the national movement."

World news in brief

Clinton puts gentle pressure on Israel

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton engaged in a round of mild arm-twisting with Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, yesterday, gently urging him to accelerate the peace process with the Palestinians but avoiding any show of tension with a crucial political ally. White House aides said Mr Clinton would request "progress on the ground" from Mr Netanyahu, who has irritated Washington with his laggardly approach to peace. This is the Likud prime minister's second visit to Washington since his election victory in May. He came under pressure to ease further the closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip allowing more Palestinians to enter Israel for work — and to honour his predecessor's commitment to withdraw from Hebron, the West Bank city which includes an enclave of 450 Jewish settlers. At talks in London last weekend, the US secretary of state, Warren Christopher, urged the Israeli foreign minister, David Levy, to take "concrete steps" to improve relations with the Palestinians. But even as Mr Clinton reiterated that request yesterday, he started only the gentlest pressure on Mr Netanyahu. Clinton sides explained that the Israeli prime minister had allayed Washington's chief concern by finally meeting the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader, Yasser Arafat, last week. Meanwhile, Israeli and Palestinian negotiators yesterday resumed detailed talks on implementing their three-year-old peace accord, after more than three months of delays. The latest talks, in the West Bank self-rule enclave of Jericho, produced agreement on procedures and an immediate dispute on the most pressing issue of all: Israel's promised redeployment of occupation troops in Hebron. — Jonathan Freedland, Washington, and Derek Bruen, Jerusalem.

Britain doubts test ban treaty

THE Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, yesterday cast doubt over whether a global nuclear test ban treaty would be ratified, even if the United Nations were to accept the pact this week. But Australia's UN ambassador, Richard Butler, was confident the UN resolution on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty would be adopted, possibly today, and that the treaty would come into force within the next three years. "Discussing it in the United Nations may help in indicating world opinion, but it will not in itself clinch the treaty," Mr Portillo said in Canberra. He is in Australia for defence talks. He said the treaty's success was threatened by disagreements about whether nuclear arms treaties should be signed to bring it into force. The treaty would ban atmospheric and underground nuclear tests. "When that was last discussed in Geneva [at the conference for disarmament], we were a little way short of a consensus," Mr Portillo said. — *Rosier, Sydney*.

Bisho march 'was a trap'

THE government of the former South African president F. W. de Klerk was responsible for the 1992 "Bisho massacre" of 29 black protesters, a former secretary-general of the African National Congress, Cyril Ramaphosa, said yesterday. Mr Ramaphosa told Archbishop Desmond Tutu's Truth and Reconciliation Commission that he believed a 60,000-strong crowd marching for the abolition of the Ciskei tribal homeland was lured into a trap. He said the border fence between South Africa and the nominally independent homeland had been deliberately cut, allowing ANC marchers to surge through. The homeland army, led by Ciskei's then military ruler, Brigadier Cyprius Qoqo, fired without warning, but Mr Ramaphosa said Mr De Klerk's government was ultimately to blame. "Qoqo would not have had the courage to do what he did otherwise," he said. — *Rosier, Bisho*.

Cyprus 'facing catastrophe'

THE Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktaş, warned yesterday that the island of Cyprus was heading for catastrophe unless immediate action was taken to reduce the growing tension between his community and the Greek Cypriots. He was speaking after a Turkish Cypriot soldier was shot dead on Sunday and another was wounded at a sentry post on the line which has separated the communities since 1974. His people have blamed the Greek Cypriots, but the Cyprus government says there is no evidence its supporters were involved. Turkey's foreign minister, Tansu Çiller, will attend the soldier's funeral today. Last month, two Greek Cypriots were killed during demonstrations against the Turkish army's occupation of the north of the island. Mr Denktaş said he was again appealing for talks with the Cypriot president, Glafos Clerides. "If the Greek Cypriots want to keep Cyprus in the headlines and instead of cooling the atmosphere by meeting and talking they want to keep on adding fire to it, then I think the signals are that we are heading for catastrophe," he said. — *Chris Drake, Nicosia*.

New scandal rocks Belgium

BELGIUM was last night convulsed by the second national scandal in three weeks as police stepped up an investigation into the assassination five years ago of the former deputy prime minister, Andre Coolemans. The latest revelations come after a separate inquiry into a paedophile ring led to the discovery of the bodies of two eight-year-old girls and two teenagers. The effect has been to renew public criticism of the police and judicial system and prompt accusations of cover-ups and incompetence. The inquiries have so far remained separate, despite frenzied speculation about alleged links between the paedophiles and corrupt politicians. The prime minister, Jean-Luc Dehaene, was yesterday forced to promise an investigation into the handling of the Coolemans case. The chief investigator, Raymond Coen, has already stepped down. Police have arrested four men, including Alain Van der Bieck, a political protégé who is a former minister in the Walloon regional government, on suspicion of involvement in the assassination. All had been questioned before but the inquiry had been dormant until the paedophile scare. — *Stephen Bates, Brussels*.

Burundi blockade eased

AFRICAN countries said yesterday they had agreed to ease sanctions against Burundi to allow some humanitarian aid on condition that the embargo's purpose was not undermined. The regional sanctions co-ordinating committee said United Nations flights would be allowed into Burundi, and staff and agencies allowed to bring in fuel by road. "The committee decided to address genuine humanitarian concerns in a manner that does not undermine the very essence of sanctions," said a statement issued in Nairobi yesterday. The committee consists of representatives from Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and the Organisation of African Unity. Zaire did not attend the meeting. UN agencies, bringing in baby food and essential items for infants and hospital patients, would be subjected to "strict verification and control arrangements". Burundi's military ruler, Pierre Buyoya, had urged the committee to lift sanctions imposed after an army coup ousted the president, Sylvestre Ntibunganya, on July 25. But the committee said the regime had so far failed to meet any of the conditions set when sanctions were imposed. — *Rosier, Nairobi*.

Mao poems mark anniversary

MAO Zedong peered out from the front pages of Chinese newspapers yesterday when state publishers issued three new volumes of his poems and letters to mark the 20th anniversary of his death. Thousands of Chinese formed a 1,000-tonne queue for a glimpse of the embalmed body of the Great Helmsman, lying in a crystal coffin at a mausoleum on Tiananmen Square in the heart of the capital Beijing. The ruling Communist Party paid its tribute to the father of new China with the publication of a collection of Mao's poems, a biography and letters he wrote to friends and relatives in his birthplace, Shaoshan in central Hunan province. Newspapers splashed across their front pages the news of the publication of the third to fifth volumes of the "Collected Works of Mao Zedong" but made no mention of Mao's now-defunct policies of endless proletarian revolution. — *Rosier, Beijing*.

Sonja's Eagles try to force Swiss doves off the air

Bosnian Elections

Julian Borger in Pale

A SWISS-sponsored radio station broadcasting in Bosnia has been experiencing some interference lately. Its output of pre-election public information programmes is being pushed off the air by a bizarre mix of the Eagles and Orthodox choirs. The source of this interference is the latest venture of the Karadzic family, Orthodox Radio St Jovan, which broadcasts middle-of-the-road rock, church music, and party political broadcasts for the Serb Democratic Party (SDS), 12 hours a day across Serb-held Bosnia. It is owned and managed by Sonja Karadzic, the daughter of the wartime leader of the SDS and Republika Srpska, Radovan, who is keeping his head down because of an international arrest warrant. She was a medical student before the war, but quickly rose to control press coverage throughout her father's fiefdom. Radio Sonja, as Orthodox Radio St Jovan was immediately dubbed, arrived in a big way on August 24 — broadcasting from two studios on five FM frequencies simultaneously. Questions have inevitably been raised about where the money has come from. The Karadzic family was frequently accused, even in the Bosnian Serb parliament, of profiting from sanctions by smuggling petrol into the country. Sonja's arch-rival in the Bosnian Serb media world, Colonel Milovan Milutinovic, has also suggested on air that she has financed her radio station out of the "hard-earned" proceeds from selling foreign press accreditations. Col Milutinovic was sacked as army spokesman after falling foul of Sonja last year by publicly questioning her level of education (she failed to complete her medical degree). He still manages to get away with cheeky remarks, and some relatively open discussion programmes, because his station, Radio Krajina, broadcasts from the safety of a well-guarded barracks in Banja Luka. Radio Krajina survives because the army is not

totally under the control of the SDS. As an offshoot of the old Yugoslav army, it has parallel allegiance to Belgrade and the Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic. In the cracks between Belgrade and the SDS stronghold of Pale, people like Colonel Milutinovic are able to function. "Occasionally, a dissenting voice can be heard on some of the local Serb stations," said Mark Wheeler, an analyst in Sarajevo for the Institute of War and Peace Reporting. "But the spectrum of acceptable views is extremely narrow. It is either pro-Karadzic or pro-Milosevic."

Radio Krajina may be a lone example of an independent broadcaster in Serb territory, but that is one more than in Croat areas, which rely totally on Croatian radio and television, HRT. The HRT's half-hourly nightly programme on the Bosnian elections focuses

Questions have been raised about where Karadzic got the money for her radio station

almost entirely on the Croatian Democratic Union, Zagreb's ruling party. In Muslim-controlled areas, there are independent radio and television stations in most big cities. Even the state-controlled media makes an occasional stab at objective reporting, but it is coming under increasing pressure from the ruling SDS.

International attempts to spread Bosnia's limited press freedoms across the country have had only limited success. The Free Election Radio Network (FERN) — the Swiss-sponsored station now being half-jammed by Radio Sonja — carries music and public information broadcasting, but Croats and Serbs view it as a foreign imposition. More ambitious is a £7.3 million Open Broadcast Network being co-ordinated by the international community's high representative in Bosnia, Carl Bildt. Plagued by technical delays and the entrenched resistance of all three nationalist parties, it finally launched on Saturday, a week before elections, with a live broadcast of a Tina Turner concert and some election news.



Muslims at an election rally in Bihać, north-west of Sarajevo, wave flags in support of President Alija Izetbegovic, the Party of Democratic Action's candidate in the September 14 Bosnian presidential poll. PHOTOGRAPH: BRUNNER POPUL

Belgium's wealthy north shuns south as economic tables turn

In the second of a series on separatism in Europe, Stephen Bates in Brussels reports on the Flemings and the Walloons

THE most common car sticker in Brussels displays the red, gold and black national flag and announces defiantly: "United Belgiums We Will Remain." That it does so in three languages — French, Flemish and German — gives a clue to the tensions it seeks to defuse in a country barely 200 miles across and 100 from top to bottom. Belgium is preoccupied with separatist tendencies, at least as far as the Flemish north is concerned. "Everything in Belgium has a linguistic dimension," a Flemish friend said. "And if there isn't one already, we'll find it." Even the current paedophile scandal, which has done much to unite the country in horror and grief, has a regional subtext. All the accused and all the victims until last week were Walloons — French speakers from the south and east. The discovery of the bodies of two Flemish teenagers buried under a workshop in Charleroi transferred the Walloon community and whose discovery, buried in another of

alist Vlaams Blok calls openly for independence for Flanders, but the more moderate parties also want greater devolved powers. The call centres on winning control of the social security budget. For the first 150 years of the Belgian state, the Walloons — with heavy industry based on the mines and steel works of Liège, Namur and Charleroi — economically supported the farmers of Flanders. In the last 30 years, hi-tech industries have expanded in Flanders, while industrial plants in the south have decayed. As well as an unemployment problem, Wallonia has an ageing population and a more socialist, interventionist tradition. The Flemish pay an estimated £1.5 billion a year to support the south. Pieter Vandermeersch, deputy editor of *De Standaard*, the Flemish broadsheet, said: "The crucial issue is social se-

curity and the fiscal system. If that goes to the regions, Belgium effectively ceases to exist." "Before 2000, Wallonia will have to accept a degree of separation. If not, Belgium will explode, violently perhaps." Mr Stengers said: "Absolutely no one is talking about separation in Wallonia. The feeling is that they will suffer financially and there is also a sense of humiliation at being treated like beggars. There is increasing resentment." Thomas Tindemans, a political adviser and lawyer in Brussels and son of the former prime minister Leo Tindemans, said: "For the moment it could be that Flanders is contributing more but a few years ago it was the other way round. How do you keep a nation together if everyone complains about helping the others?" At the heart of the separatist dilemma is the almost certainly insuperable problem of Brussels. It is surrounded by Flemish-speaking areas. Flanders claims it as its capital. But 85 per cent of its population speaks French. The Brussels do not identify much with either the Flemish or the Walloons. But neither side could cede control of the capital. Mr Stengers believes an even greater force will keep Belgium together: the huge national debt. "Our debt is the greatest cement for national unity. Trying to divide it would mean the collapse of Belgian economic credibility."



Next: The Spanish approach

Paying too much for Breakdown Cover? Vehicle rescue from just £29.50* per year JOIN TODAY CALL FREE FREE INFORMATION PACK 0800 000 111

July 1996

IRAQ CRISIS: Arabs linked to CIA-backed body appeal to Washington for asylum • Iran warns of humanitarian crisis

Abandoned and fearing for their lives

Members of an anti-Saddam group holed up in Salahuddin spoke to Jonathan Randal, before the fall of Sulaymaniyah

TWO hundred Iraqi Arabs who have connections to the CIA-backed opposition to President Saddam Hussein are holed up in the mountain resort of Salahuddin after fleeing the city of Irbil when Iraqi troops seized it 10 days ago. They are convinced that they will be killed by Baghdad's secret police and during our interview several of them appealed to the United States for political asylum.

The men — renegade army officers, engineers and other professionals who are members of the US-financed Iraqi National Congress — said they were running out of money. They were short of blankets and most were sleeping outside in the increasingly chilly late summer nights. They said neither the United Nations nor the Red Cross had visited them.

About 100 of their colleagues were arrested by Iraqi secret police during the capture of Irbil and apparently executed, according to US officials and Iraqi dissident sources.

The US government has sponsored the Iraqi National Congress to generate opposition to President Saddam since the Gulf war in 1991. President Saddam's thrust into the formerly protected Kurdish zone broke up the CIA-funded operation and the handful of CIA officers stationed in Irbil fled.

They felt betrayed and abandoned — convinced that Baghdad's secret police were lurking outside their HQ

It is not clear whether the men here were full-time employees of the CIA operation, or part of a military force mustered by the Iraqi National Congress to police potential ceasefire between warring Kurdish factions.

Over ever-mounting ashrays, they said they felt betrayed and abandoned, and convinced that Baghdad's secret police were lurking outside their headquarters, a former hotel on Salahuddin's main street.

"We cannot get to the border of Iraq, Turkey or Iran," one man said. "We are trapped like rats."

The Iraqi National Congress comprises a number of groups, ranging from separatist Kurds to southern Shi'ites and secular opponents of the government, who have taken refuge in the semi-autonomous Kurdish zone and were associated with the US-sponsored opposition.

scored opposition. It is dominated by the fractious Kurds, which is one reason why it has failed to generate broad support within Iraq's Sunni Muslim-dominated political establishment and military.

A 13-man committee representing a Shi'ite Arab group within the congress expressed scepticism about reassurances concerning their safety from senior security officials of the Kurdistan Democratic Party. The KDP has its headquarters in Salahuddin but has formed a tactical alliance with the Iraqi government.

"They say they are responsible for our safety," one man said. "But we are not sure at all." Even leaving the walled compound to cross the street for food and cigarettes was a mortal danger, another said.

An Iraqi National Congress source in Washington said the US had warned the KDP that it would be held responsible for any harm to congress members.

The committee members insisted their doubts were justified in the light of the KDP's alliance with Baghdad to capture Irbil from the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

"We cannot tolerate any Iraqi secret police in Irbil, much less in Salahuddin," a top KDP official said. He conceded, however, that in the immediate wake of the capture of Irbil, the Iraqi secret police "had exploited an opportunity" before his party insisted they stop.

The National Congress group was unconvinced. "Why did the KDP not warn us?" a committee member asked. And why, others said, had the US not honoured what they considered its pledge to use air power to thwart the Iraqi offensive?



Kurdish fighters with the Baghdad-backed KDP on their advance yesterday to Sulaymaniyah, the key city they later captured from the rival PUK

Feuding Kurds get cold comfort from West as aid operation dies

hoping to craft a structure to prevent the Iraqi president from consolidating his authority over Kurdistan. They admit frankly that they do not know whether the tactical alliance between Baghdad and Massoud Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) will endure. For the moment, Washington and London's policy is to reconcile the rival forces of the KDP and Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), whose divisions are probably a larger one — because of refugees from the latest fighting.

Although American aid workers were ordered to flee last week, "there is no doubt that there will be a continuing humanitarian mission — probably a larger one — because of refugees from the latest fighting," a Washington diplomat involved in the reassessment told the Guardian yesterday. "But the framework for the operation is now clearly obsolete."

As well as the humanitarian mission, British and United States officials are hoping to craft a structure to prevent the Iraqi president from consolidating his authority over Kurdistan. They admit frankly that they do not know whether the tactical alliance between Baghdad and Massoud Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) will endure.

months to close Operation Provide Comfort, and to reopen the Iraqi oil pipeline into Turkey. Until President Saddam's latest incursion, the protective air patrols had been cut back from 90 flights a day to four. Turkey has also increasingly taken over the ground patrols from the original US, French and British forces, despite Kurdish complaints that these patrols have become a cover for Turkish anti-guerrilla operations.



Martin Walker in Washington

Island dispute unites Chinese

DISPUTE over a cluster of barren, uninhabited islands has galvanised the Chinese Communist Party and anti-communists in Hong Kong and Taiwan into an unprecedented display of unity. Rival Chinese and Japanese claims to the islands — known as Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China — have taken relations between Beijing and Tokyo to a new low. China dates its claim to the islands, situated between Okinawa and Taiwan, to the 15th century. The islands were ceded to Japan along with Taiwan in 1895 and remained under Japanese rule until the end of the second world war. Then, together with Okinawa, they were placed under US control. The US returned Okinawa and the disputed islands to Japan in 1972.

The dispute flared last month after Japanese nationalists planted a 16-ft aluminium lighthouse on the territory. The flimsy tower has since sparked protests from Chinese of all political stripes on the mainland, in Taiwan and in Hong Kong. The islands control valuable fishing waters and potential gas reserves, but nationalism is at the heart of the dispute. In Hong Kong, the most passionate defenders of Chinese claims to the islands are leaders of the colony's democratic movement, which usually focuses on mobilising protest against Beijing.

Cali greets end of drug boom with impoverished glee

empty cafes and the shell of the Harley Davidson dealership that once showcased the biggest, fastest motorcycles. Even before the last alleged capo of the Cali drug cartel, Helmer "Pacho" Herrera, turned himself in to police last week, the city had been feeling the effects of the cartel's collapse.

Without them, this city of 1.8 million is suffering withdrawal pains exacerbated by a national economic downturn. The number of companies in concordia, a sort of bankruptcy, is five times the level of previous years. "Cali's unemployment rate has more than doubled in the past 18 months, reaching the highest level in eight years.

All this unemployment is truly worrying," said Eduardo Fernández de Soto, of the Cali Business Committee. "These people could go bad and start stealing."

Nevertheless, Cali residents have greeted the end of the drug boom with relief. "What is important is that we are back to being who we are," Mr Rodriguez said. "We are not rich. This boom had to end."

Residents are eager to shed Cali's image as the world's drug capital and become known for the 80 multinational companies with manufacturing plants in the city. Business leaders speak of the need to export and to modernise the nearby Buenaventura port.

"We were in an unreal situation," said Luis Cañon, editor of El País, the city's leading newspaper. "Now, prices have gone down and people can live."

mark anniversary

Army embraced at Rorke's Drift

THE last time the British army was at Rorke's Drift they were easy to spot in bright red jackets, shiny buttons and white pith helmets. Now they wear khaki green but still look odd in a place little changed since they fought the Zulus more than a century ago.

Britain awarded a still unmatched 11 Victoria Crosses to soldiers at Rorke's Drift, a battle which hastened the end of an independent Zulu nation. "Our battalion relives that day each year," said Capt Dickinson, wearing a T-shirt from the 8 Rorke's Drift Company of the Royal Regiment of Wales. "We sit down every year to watch Zulu," he said, referring to the 1983 film starring Michael Caine that immortalised the battle.

"I was worried we'd be seen as reliving empire links and glorifying the past, but there was no problem at all," he said. "This is certainly not an act of atonement, it is a humanitarian project."

But the symbolism of returning to put something into a needy community, finally free of the white rule the British army cemented, has not gone unnoticed. "In Zulu custom after two boys fight they become friends. If one is hurt the other cleans the wounds he has caused," Prince Gideon Zulu said welcoming the unit. "We fought the British, but today we are friends." — Reuter.

Lombard DIRECT THE PERSONAL LOAN SERVICE NEED SOME EXTRA CASH? For an unsecured personal loan from £500 to £15,000, one call to Lombard Direct and you're laughing. Call 0800 2 15000 at any time of the day or night quoting reference number 472 1134.

Growing out of opposition
Unions can help to lead Britain out of the wilderness

IF THERE is to be an extended "cooling off" period in industrial relations it ought to apply first to ministerial threats made during the run-up to a general election. Industry Secretary Ian Lang's hint yesterday that the Government is thinking of extending the present compulsory seven-day cooling-off period to a month before strike action can be taken is a fatuous contribution to a very serious debate about the next steps we need to take to reform industrial relations. A week is enough time to "cool down": a month is more like an extended vacation which could be counter-productive by provoking wild cat strikes among frustrated workers.

Doesn't Mr Lang realise that, partly thanks to his own party's labour reforms (plus a heavy dose of unemployment), the problem of strikes has all but disappeared? Sure there are one or two high-profile disputes at the moment — like the railways and the Post Office — but neither is primarily about inflation-busting pay settlements and both are well advertised in advance enabling industry and commuters to make alternative plans. Sure, there has been a rise in strikes recently but so what? In June 238,000 working days were lost, but this was exceptional. During 1995 415,000 days were lost and in 1994 278,000, which was 25 times lower than the annual average between 1974 and 1993 of 7.5 million.

Strikes may be waning but industrial relations still need to be improved radically if unions are (as John Monks aptly said yesterday) to "grow out of opposition" and prove they can help the country's future. If a way can be found to enable the economy to grow a little bit faster without running into the danger of unleashing inflationary wage claims then everyone would gain. A better balance needs to be struck between the undoubted right of unions to strike and the responsibilities they

have both to their own companies and to the economy at large. Tony Blair is clearly looking at what the yesterday called "sensible" ways in which public sector disputes could be resolved. One possibility is for workers in key public services to bargain their right to strike for an independent system of arbitration which determines their pay rises against criteria like productivity and what is happening to comparable groups of workers. Other ideas include pendulum arbitration (under which an independent arbiter can accept either the union's or the employers' final proposals but no compromises) or a tax on inflationary wage settlements which could be recycled to boost employment. In the private sector it might be possible to direct the massive power of collective bargaining towards profit sharing as well as wage claims. If ways could be found of locking unions into the wealth creation process then they might one day shed the negative image from which John Monks is trying to deliver them.

There is another way unions could improve their image. They have been absolutely right to campaign for a minimum wage, but there has been a conspicuous absence of unions saying that they won't try to preserve their differentials once the low paid have been given a much needed boost. But if unions preserve the same percentage differential, the scene will be set for a fresh wage-price spiral of the kind that would knock the economy off course. Unions could be forgiven for arguing that top managers (not to mention MPs) have shown an appalling lead by feathering their own nests but the sad fact is that two wrongs don't make a right. If the unions want a future Labour government under Mr Blair to lead Britain out of the economic wilderness they must accept that they have a vital — proactive — role to play.

A doomed dialogue of the deaf

Is there any serious point in Senator Mitchell staying on?

A POLL published in Dublin yesterday found that 68 per cent of the Northern Ireland population believe that the province's talks process will end in failure. Pretty realistic stuff, one might think. In some respects the more surprising finding was that as many as 32 per cent thought they would succeed. But today, 24 hours after the poll's publication, even that now seems like reckless optimism.

While the talks were in abeyance for the summer it was possible for their absence to breed illusion. It was conceivable that July's sectarian pettiness might be put to one side when the participants reconvened this week. Hints over the weekend that the two main parties, the Ulster Unionists and the SDLP, had reached important procedural agreements also encouraged a marginally less pessimistic perspective. It was possible, just about, to persuade oneself that there might now be a consensus for a fresh start. But such illusions evaporated when the parties came back yesterday.

What happened at Stormont gives cause only for gloomy realism. Yesterday's early break-up of the session — the talks got bogged down within minutes — offered a clear signal that the Democratic Unionists are set on a long-term disruptive approach which the other parties do not know how to counter. After recent loyalist death threats, the DUP's Ian Paisley wants to exclude the Progressive Unionist Party and the Ulster Democratic Party from

the talks (both parties are, in the jargon, close to the loyalist paramilitaries). Yesterday he delivered his ultimatum and then left for Canada. Not much sign of give and take there.

But then give and take has never been Mr Paisley's game. He is an exclusive not an inclusive politician. He wants to marginalise the paramilitaries, partly because they threaten his votes, but mainly because his real target is Sinn Féin. If he can get the DUP and UDP out, Mr Paisley believes, it will be much harder for the British and Irish governments to finesse Gerry Adams into the process on the back of some sort of ceasefire.

It is a mark of the bankruptcy of the current process that Mr Paisley should even bother to make such a suggestion. For there is not a shred of evidence that the two governments (especially the British) have either the intention or the ability to achieve such an objective. Even if they did, the mood in Ulster is clearly hostile as well as pessimistic. David Trimble of the UUP made clear last week that he would not accept a referendum vote on Ulster's future if he did not agree with it. Mr Paisley can be counted on to adopt an equally defiant approach. The opportunities opened by the peace process have all but closed, an outcome for which all the protagonists must share responsibility. It is good of Senator Mitchell to commit himself to stay on as chairman of the talks, but there is little sign that there is now a serious job for him to do.

The ethics of cloud-capped towers

Extra tall skyscrapers are not about economics, but egos

SCEPTICS will say it confirms only one fact: Britain's membership of the Third World. Plans were unveiled yesterday for Britain's biggest skyscraper. The proposed 1,200 ft Millennium Tower on the site of London's Baltic Exchange would be Europe's tallest building and even 15 feet higher than New York's Empire State. Certainly the dimensions of the new project signal the same sense of desperation which surrounded Malaysia's successful bid to build the world's tallest building in Kuala Lumpur. Millennium Tower will still fall 276 feet short of Kuala Lumpur's Petronas Towers but will be twice as high as the City's current highest building, NatWest Tower, and half as tall again as Docklands' Canary Wharf. It will ensure that Britain jumps ahead again of Germany, currently completing a 984 ft tower in Frankfurt, which may be juvenile but then no-one can accuse Germany of Third World status.

Ideally there should be no skyscrapers in central London, not because they are nasty but because Europe's historic cities should not need to imitate America. Paris demonstrates the success of rigorous planning rules which push all highrise buildings to the periphery. Life is much more civilised there, living among architecture of a human scale. But central London already has skyscrapers so it would be perverse to rule out a further one. Sir Norman Foster is one of our most creative architects so people cannot quibble about the quality of the proposed building. The existing surplus of three million square feet of London office space raises a more pertinent question. But then, as a member of the Council of Tall Buildings, the body which adjudicates on various international construction claims, has noted: "extra tall skyscrapers are not a matter of economics or population density, it's basically ego."



Letters to the Editor

Unions: the way forward

IT'S TUC week and the Guardian splashes on proposals from the New Labour Party to restrict the rights of workers and their unions (Union anger at Labour no-strike proposal, September 9).

However, it fails to show how far trade union membership has changed. In the private sector, union organisation has, by and large, collapsed. The economic group most likely to be union members are white collar professionals with a high degree of education — a middle-class elite in protected employment.

There has been an enormous growth in casual, short-term employment which has been predominantly low paid. What do unions affiliated to the TUC have to offer? Many elements in the TUC oppose any form of low paid protection.

TUC unions have priced themselves out of the market with their high subscriptions and seem to offer nothing but discounts on insurance and loans. What is needed is a return to the practices of the early 20th century — organise

at the workplace, taking on the employers with all the aggression needed and flouting the law whenever necessary. Kevin Brandstatter, Industrial Workers of the World, 9 Omdurman Street, Swindon SN2 1HA.

GEOFF Mulgan recommends a body (employee mutual) which performs the function of a trade union (Unions' future in mutual satisfaction, September 3) but calls itself something else under the guise of regaining "public trust".

However, he regrets the lack of "a good legal form" in the set-up he advocates. To meet his criterion to be in a "position to shape an economy" there are, however, other solutions. For example, current opinion on works councils seem not to be entirely out of favour in the debates extant on the European Social Chapter and these might constitute a good legal form.

Another alternative might be the "chambers of labour", parallel bodies to chambers of industry and commerce in Austria, Germany and Lux-

embourg. These not only function as workers' parliament but also as adjuncts to trade union organisations through the provision of legal representation and employee rights. Jim Sweeney, 21 Weoley Park Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6QY.

AMUTUAL society, whatever that means, would not be an effective bargaining organisation nor would it be an effective defence organisation, guarding pay levels, working conditions and training provision.

This does not mean that co-operation between those selling their labour and those buying it is not desirable. In this country, co-operation between the two sides is woefully inadequate to produce the efficiency and stability needed for our economy.

What is needed is a change of culture whereby employees are consulted at all levels of production. Ralph Innes, 41 Arbor Road, Croft, Leicester, LE9 3GB.

Catholic tastes: the Pope, conservatism and adultery

IN Simon Hattenstone's feature (God's own scriptwriter, September 6), a statement is made, attributed to a bookseller, that Karol Wojtyla's (John Paul II) play, Our Lord's Brother, has never been published in English. This is not true.

I happen to be the translator (yes, appointed by that very Commission for the Writings of Karol Wojtyla) of all his plays. The play in question has been translated (under the title Our God's Brother) and published in The Collected Plays and Writings on Theater by Karol Wojtyla, University of California Press.

As far as I know, the book is still in print. In view of Mr Hattenstone's assertion, "I tried the British Library. No luck", it seems I shall have to present them with one of my own copies. Boleslaw Taborski, 66 Esmond Road, Bedford Park, London W4 1JF.

SIMON Hattenstone asserts that Pope John Paul II is "widely regarded as one of the most conservative popes this century". I do not dispute that the "conservative" label, misguidedly in my opinion, has been applied to the current pontiff. That much is accepted. However, the reference is towards ecclesiastical conservatism, not political.

Two quite different areas. To "revel" Karol Wojtyla as having socialist tendencies in his political thought, will come as very little surprise to anybody who has taken the time to study him. Greg Murphy, Editor, Catholic Times, First Floor, St James's Buildings, Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6PP.

[READ Simon Hattenstone's account of Pope John Paul II's play and plans to turn it into a film with interest and a degree of sympathy. But I was disappointed at some of its assumptions. Apart from the difference in age and circumstances between the student who wrote the play and the middle-aged archbishop who became Pope, the Pope's sense of his accountability before God and history for the Church's fidelity to the Gospel mean he is unlikely to think and write now — or even in 1978 when he was first elected — as he thought and wrote in the 1940s. Hattenstone does not allow

himself to ponder why a certain kind of conservatism and the Pope's office might go ineluctably together. And his position is hardly strengthened by the reference to John Paul II's condemnation of "adultery of the heart".

Has he never read the teaching of Jesus: "You have learnt how it was said: 'You must not commit adultery.' But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matthew 5:27-28)? (P) Bruce Bradley SJ, Headmaster, Clongowes Wood College, Neas, Co Kildare.

The secret's out

[WAS pleased to see Jack Straw reaffirming Labour's commitment to a Freedom of Information (FOI) Act (Our secret society, September 5). I hope he will soon also be able to repeat the commitment made before the last election by his predecessor, Roy Hattersley, that this reform would be introduced in the first year of a new government.

FOI is particularly suitable for swift implementation. Draft legislation already exists and was examined by Parliament in detail when Mark Fisher's Right to Know Bill was debated for 21 hours in 1993. The government's "Open Government" code of practice, while falling well short of legislation, will have prepared Whitehall for change and put some of the infrastructure in place.

Unlike some constitutional reforms, FOI is relatively uncontroversial in party terms. It would also be relatively cheap and highly popular, enjoying 61 per cent of the public's support, more than any other constitutional reform, according to a 1995 poll.

By acting immediately on freedom of information, a new administration could signal from the outset that it was seeking to bind itself to high standards in office and break the habits of secrecy that have caused so much cynicism in the past. Maurice Frankel, Director, Campaign for Freedom of Information, 88 Old Street, London EC1V 9AX.

Please include a full postal address, even an e-mailed letters and a daytime telephone number. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear.

Bare necessity

HAS the Church of England, more particularly, the Dean and Chapter of Durham finally taken leave of its senses (Durham's revelation, September 7)? £188,000 for a piece of "artistic" ephemera which will have been forgotten a day after it has been dismantled.

The charity with which I am involved was congratulating itself when it received a grant from the Church Urban Fund of about £40,000 towards accommodation for the homeless. And yet the same Church can blow nearly five times that on a transitory display.

The Dean might just as well have piled £50 notes outside the cathedral and set light to them — at least that would have provided some warmth for a few homeless people. Iain Macleach-Jarvis, Director, Emmaus UK, 27 Perovne Street, Cambridge.

WHAT'S all this fuss about an image of a naked man floating about in Durham Cathedral? The first book of Genesis states quite clearly that "God created man in his own image", and since the definition of "image" is "a double" or "a copy", it follows quite logically that God has genitals too. So if visitors to the cathedral find such body parts offensive, they know who to complain to when next offering up their prayers. Edward Johnson, 12 Horbury Crescent, London W11 3NF.

Tall story

MAY not know much about architecture but I take issue with two of the spokesmen about the proposed skyscraper designed by Sir Norman Foster (London's £550m erotic gherkin, September 9). Yes, Owen Luder, people will visit tall buildings, but then people are just as likely to buy tickets to a plane crash. As to tall buildings being "attractive to the skyline", that's "attractive" compared to what, exactly?

And my misgivings about the wisdom of building of ever taller skyscrapers are not allayed by Stuart Murphy's reported comment that it's a "slim tower, so the shadow will be short". Never mind the quality, feel the width, eh?

John Morrison, 6 Brunwick Street, Hebdon Bridge, West Yorkshire HX7 6AJ.

Ace service on the forecourt

SO Safeway and BP are to combine in a network of food-and-fuel shops (Safeway and BP in link-up, September 7)? I hope BP's "forecourt skills" will take into account my extreme reluctance to tramp a mile to pay for the petrol.

It also irritates me to have to wait for somebody taking an age to pay — or to shop and pay — with his car preventing my use of the pumps. How about a drive-through pay arrangement, the exit



leading to the shop? I buy petrol in £15 or £20 lots, pay cash and, depending on circumstances, move the car before making the trudge to the counter.

I'm a saint, I know. BP could start a trend back to service-based forecourts. I would be happy to pay a bit more to help provide jobs. H Clarke, Funnell Avenue, Great Longstone, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1TX.

On Scotland's unsettled will

MICHAEL White's analysis of Scottish Labour's recent convulsions on a referendum on devolution (The Scottish conundrum, September 7) revealed a superficial grasp of the subject.

The Scottish Constitutional Convention was not founded in 1991, but in 1989, after the A Claim of Right document and SNP's Govan by-election victory in 1988; Michael Forsyth was appointed Scottish Secretary not in 1994, but 1995.

His first year being dominated by the success of his "tartan tax" offensive. However, the most damning error is the assertion that, in the 1979 referendum, "devolution was rejected by voters"; it was actually narrowly won, but blocked by the 40 per cent rule.

The referendum debacle reveals the fundamental fault-lines in the "British" Labour coalition. Both Scottish and British Labour have profoundly inaccurate views of themselves, each other, their uneasy relationship, and Scottish politics in general, which have been exposed by this crisis.

Scottish Labour's stand against a referendum was one of conservatism and caution. A referendum was unnecessary because devolution was, in John Smith's words, "the settled will of the Scottish people" and "unfinished business".

This meant that Scottish Labour's involvement in the Constitutional Convention, a supposed expression of popular sovereignty, never allowed for the underwriting of any devolution scheme by the most obvious form of popular sovereignty: a referendum.

Scottish Labour's belief in its own uniqueness has been punctured by New Labour. The Constitutional Convention was never going to be implemented carte blanche by a Labour Government. Now it could be irrelevant to Blair's devolution plans.

New Labour's policy changes have re-affirmed where power really lies in the party and, in the process, blown up a few of the comfortable and cosy myths about Scottish politics: for that at least we can be grateful. Gerry Hession, 29 Moray Place, Strathbungo, Glasgow G41 2LB.

ALTHOUGH I was born in Scotland, I am opposed to Scottish national separatism in all its forms. A common nationalism for everybody seems best to me; and I cannot understand why one of the Unionist leaders does not propose this. E G Macfarlane, 106 Fortbill Road, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 8DR.

A Country Diary

SOMERSET: We often pass through the area where the River Parrett rises in the southernmost part of the county on the border with Dorset. It is an unassuming place with gentle slopes, cows and cider orchards. The signposts are a delight. They point to Haselbury Plucknett, East Coker, Hardington Mandeville, Misterton, Mosterton and North Perrott. The Parrett wriggles unobtrusively for a while before setting decisively out, straight North-west across more than 50 miles of Somerset. It takes flood water off the levels, and finds its way towards the Bristol Channel at Bridgewater, which was once a major port. I stopped this time at Haselbury Plucknett, having read of some remarkable happenings in this village named after a 13th century Breton "de Pludenet". Red and yellow hamstone cottages are ranged along each side of the main road and a little grass triangle with an old iron bench is set beside it. I could not at first find the

church. It is some way off centre, down a curving, gravelly and stony track, past a big willow, and stands in a spacious, well-wooded churchyard, lush with grass and dandelions and thick with stone tombs and grave-stones that lean at all angles. The exterior is impressive and the Parochial Church Council believes in keeping the door open. The inside is a surprisingly bland open space; the arcades were removed in 1920 to join the aisles and nave. So the effect is the reverse of what I was looking for, because my source (Somerset, the Complete Guide) tells of the celebrated hermit of Haselbury Plucknett, St Wulfic, who arrived in 1126 and lived in a cell on the North side of the chancel. He wore chain mail and took cold baths. His reputation for healing and prophecy spread, and the Kings Henry I and Stephen visited him here. But I could find no trace or reference. This is a reticent part of the country. JOHN VALLINS

مكرامن التجميل

Diary
Matthew Norman

SOMETHING strange has befallen one of British journalism's more splendid institutions: it is now possible, it seems, to book a slot on the letters page of the Times long in advance. On behalf of a 24-charity coalition, Mencap issued a press release last week announcing that a letter of protest, about underfunding in Community Care, will be delivered to Ken Clarke tomorrow. "The letter, also published in the Times today..." says the release, referring in fact to tomorrow but sent out last Friday. Good God, how can this be? "The Times said they would publish it," Mencap press officer Frances Tuke explains, "as late as they had it exclusively." Well, well, who'd have thought that the old Thunderer's letters page would succumb to the tactics of the tabloids? My attempt to reserve the witty *open* slot (bottom left) for November 25, for a wash of little effort on autumn 60's high rainfall (so much for global warming!) have thus far failed. Even so, what a swizz... and whatever next for the Times in its lurch down-market? How long can it be, shocked observers ask themselves today, before the paper starts slashing its cover price, like a saucy salesman in a street market?

AT the TUC conference in Blackpool yesterday, delegates were treated to a presentation by journalist and psephologist Peter Kellner, on how membership could be revived. Using charts, films and polling evidence, he explained that, although the public like the unions' aims and beliefs, they can't be done with nearly old strikes, and called on the TUC to find ways to attract 5,000,000 potential unionists, many of them lapsed members. What Mr Kellner forgot to add is that his own NUJ membership lapsed in 1991, but Arthur Scargill found this out anyway, and took the rostrum to invite Mr Kellner to say which union he joined in its place (an invitation he has yet to accept).

ALSO banging the drum for the workers yesterday, meanwhile, was that model employer, the Independent. In a main leader headlined "Wake up, unions, there's a mighty job to do", it bemoaned emasculating employment legislation and resultant job insecurity, declaring: "Today, just as 100 years ago, employees should be joining trade unions to find security." Perhaps the paper's deputy editor Colin Hughes, westerer of countless sacking under Gentleman Charlie Wilson, helped write it. As for David Montgomery, he has yet to accept our offer to publish a statement calling upon all Mirror Group staff to join the NUJ. Money couldn't make it to the phone yesterday, so we expect his message of solidarity some time today.

THE prospect of Carry On-style hilarity looms in Bourne-mouth. The Lloyds Hotel has placed an advert in gay journal *The Pink Paper*, stressing its proximity to the Triangle, a well known gay club in the town. However, when a punter rang to enquire after rooms for next month, he was told that the hotel was being taken over wholesale for Conference week by the Tory party.

RARE shard of controversy pierces the serenity of New Zealand's parliament, where legislation concerning Maori land rights has recently been passed. The opposition Conservative party opposed the bill, which gives Maoris the right to charge rent on leased land, but in a shock manoeuvre, Labour managed to push it through. When Conservative leader Trevor Rogers nipped out for two minutes for a pee, Labour invoked a fast track procedure, and with the chamber bereft of the sole opponent needed to stop it, through it went.

AN invitation has arrived to a media workshop in Hertfordshire. "I will not attend," says the delete-as applicable line, "the Real Cost" over lunch. Will not, it think.

ONE DAY, SON, ALL THIS WILL BE SIR NORMAN FOSTER'S.



Therapy needed for this tax neurosis

Commentary
Hugo Young

TAX is the great bogus issue of post-socialist politics. In both Britain and America, each in the middle of an election, it is where the argument is most self-righteous, and purposes to be most specific. Here's where Bob Dole and Bill Clinton, almost exactly echoed by John Major and Tony Blair, imagine the floating voter is most vulnerable to seduction or alarm. What none of them can confront is its real emptiness as a matter of dispute. The people no longer see it in the way they, the voters and spenders, are locked into imagining. The issue isn't whether the right will tax higher than the left. Left and right in both countries now make axiomatic pledges at least that they will tax no higher than their enemies. The exception is Dole, who takes it further by committing to a 15 per cent cut in income tax. But this is exemplary proof of bogusness. The evidence is that no floating voter believes him. His dishonesty will not be his

salvation. The issue is not promise but belief. Disbelief is the chronic condition of the British too. For their autumn manoeuvres the leaders are devoting vast resources to proving something there is no reason to suppose enough people are ever likely to accept. Consider, first, the argument about the past. Kenneth Clarke and Gordon Brown engage in abstruse disputation about whether Tory taxes since 1992 have cost the average voter £2,000, or whether, on the other hand, the average family is £700 better off, even after tax, since the last election. This may be an important question but, as put, presents an irresolvable conundrum. Its scholastic intensity misses the over-arching point that, in this field, people care only about what they experience. Clarke and Brown can both defend their claims. Yet they not only come up against general disbelief but individual scepticism. If people watch their tax position move, closely than anything else, as the politicians think, what is the point of trying to bamboozle them with selective definitions of the past? When experience is what counts, manipulated figures are a waste of time. The voters, in short, don't care about their personal position, they know the exact truth about what's happened. If they don't care in detail,

they won't be persuaded by cooked-up presentations. What matters is what they feel and know. General insecurity contributes far more to their condition than the outer refinements of income tax. For Tory politicians still bemused by the failure of their £700-per-family to bring in the just rewards in the feel-good factor, I offer this as one explanation, in the hope that they will stop whingeing and stop filling our pages with claims nobody needs to hear. Consider, second, the future. Here again the efforts of all politicians are being drowned by universal boredom. The deposits of public gullibility have been exhausted. President Clinton mined them deep with his undelivered promises of 1992. The Tories did the same to their own people, with the VAT increases of immortal memory. They are left jabbering in the wind about Labour being historically the party of high taxation. While no one can dispute this, no one, equally, can fail to notice with what flustering attention the Labour habit has been imitated by a Conservative Government that has enjoyed untrammelled power for more than 17 years. The tax neurosis has many costs. Quite apart from clouding the political debate with fantasy, and wearying the electorate with figures that never address each other point for point, it reaches far

into other agendas, causing appalling deformities. Such is Major's tax obsession, for example, that his cabinet is casting voracious eyes on the billion quid it thinks it might make from a quick sale of Channel Four — an achievement whose political value in itself would be minus zero. As for Blair, tax is the cause of his first major calamity, the extraordinary display of political incompetence in Scotland. Post-socialist Labour is no longer a party able to preach its pride in public spending. Fear of tax has taken over as the driving concern. It prompted the sudden U-turn in June, promising not only a Scottish referendum but a specific question about the new parliament's tax-raising power. This was part of the most subjecting which had its seed-sowing come-uppance last week. It wouldn't have happened but for a tax pre-occupation that bears no credible relationship

Tax is the cause of Blair's first major calamity, the display of incompetence in Scotland

with public attitudes. Dragging out the garbage, one is left with a residue. One part of the tax debate that certainly matters is the stated preference of the Tories for abolishing death duties and capital gains tax, as against the apparent Labour priority of easing the position of the low-paid. Given a full term, each party might plot these divergent trends. An important difference, if pursued. But since neither party will set either time or firm figure to any of its promises, it

The impotence behind the throne



Beatrix Campbell

A MOOD doth not a movement make. The rise and fall of republicanism is one of the great idiosyncrasies of British politics. The rise and rise of discontent with the royals is not attributable to republican feeling. Another mystery. How did it come to be that the royal dictatorship between the major parties and the lack of a mass movement for reform? The detour has been the sexual politics of the royal family. What parliamentarians and the press dubbed soap opera is actually the stuff of life. The reform of relations between men and women is one of the great themes of our time: it is the source of seismic shifts in civil society. Not surprisingly civil society understands how deadly that marriage has been. It was her suffering, rather than her terrible taste in men, that bonded Princess Diana to millions of women and men when she did that 20th-century thing, tell her story. It was post-Panorama civil society that also saw that she was in danger from her — and our — enemy, the Establishment. The royal family's sexism had been shrouded by the triumph of its great queens, and Andrew Morton's biography of Princess Diana revealed their coldness and cruelty and their complicity in a quintessentially patriarchal project: the Prince's prospects were contingent on his arranged marriage to an ingenue whom they denied vital data about her destiny — ie him. A Mori poll published in the Mail on Sunday revealed that more than half the voters feel that Prince Charles fails to command our respect, and that they prize public respect above all other princely virtues. No one doubts that it is the Prince's behaviour that has produced this royal crisis. But it's not a political crisis. "Because it's about a relationship politicians pull away," comments Andrew Puddheath, director of the constitutional reform campaign Charter 88. "The task for organisations now is to work with the zeitgeist," but with the drift towards an autocratic presidential mode, "the majority of political parties won't allow a debate. This puts an extraordinary demand on civil society." Charter 88 is backing a referendum and putting its mind to the problem of creating a popular project for reform. Writing from

the right, the Prince's erstwhile biographer Anthony Holden, a Daily Express columnist, tells us that he's been getting a massive mailbag with lifelong monarchists congratulating me and telling me they hope they're dead before Charles becomes king. For him, however, the crisis has been caused not only by the Prince — he's done the decent thing to neither Diana nor Camilla — but the corporate complicity of the family firm. It was his professional scrutiny of the family firm, as the Prince's official biographer, that turned Holden into, if not a republican then a leading critic of the monarchy. He likens their behaviour to the Borgias, and blames their demise on finances plus "moral turpitude". It is the absence of a political initiative offered by the major parties that "keeps the royals secure".

"Republic" is a fast-growing association campaigning against all forms of hereditary office, and its secretary Jon Temple acknowledges that Prince Diana's story "tells us how the royal family operates. And in that sense we're on new ground". The problem is to find the bridge to an older ground of constitutional reform. But, bizarrely, the hereditary principle that there isn't a monarch — though not necessarily British — thinking," says Temple. Only the Liberal Democrats, put under pressure by the rank and file in 1994, have proposed a referendum on removal of the royal prerogative.

Labour politicians of radical and independent dispositions often become misty not because they are closet monarchists but because they are disheartened democrats. "You can't deal with the monarchy unless it is enmeshed in constitutionally patriarchal project," says Dale Campbell-Savours, one of the few forensic parliamentarians. He balks, however, when he contemplates an elected alternative to check the executive. "Can I trust a political arrangement, an elected president?"

PHILIP HALL is the author of *Family Fortune*, which audited the costs and benefits of the monarchy and showed that it costs us a fortune. He is sceptical about a republican future: "We should not be surprised that there isn't a mass movement against the monarchy. When it was really in danger, after the first world war, Labour rushed to help and backed away from any kind of republicanism. The monarchy exists because of the Labour Party." The constitutional lacuna, then, lies with the constitutional parties: Her Majesty's Government and Her Majesty's loyal Opposition. Tony Blair was right when he told David Frost last weekend that the political parties are 30 years behind the public.



Crisis in the greenery

Why can't Britain's Greens succeed like they do elsewhere? John Vidal argues that it's a combination of being crushed between the media and the big parties — and their internecine squabbling

PARTY the Greens, or any small political party which thinks it has a halfway decent pudding to serve before the electorate at the next election. Without an immensely rich, high-profile sugar daddy like Sir James Goldsmith to invent, support, or at least subvert their cause, their chances of even being allowed access to the electorate are minimal. Be real, say small-party realists. A macho, increasingly narrow, personality-dominated media is only going to reflect the increasingly narrow, increasingly personality-dominated main political parties. What the dominant centre ground of politics will therefore have at best only a marginal chance of being aired, so setting up a vicious circle: you are marginal because you have no access to the media, and so you shall remain marginal because no one shall get to hear what you are trying to say. Catch 22. Many in the Green Party (okay, there are not many, even if the few left believe that 7-10 per cent would vote for them were there a PR) now feel it is pointless taking part in a two-and-a-bit horse race. In the current political climate they say that they can

expect at best three per cent of the votes in fewer than 100 seats. Better, perhaps, to stare into the political abyss and stay outside a rotten system. Better to bow out with principles intact and to appeal to people's conscience than take part in a shabby vote-grubbing contest with unscrupulous big boys who are rushing ever further into collective insanity or, worse, sameness. They don't mean it. Of course Greens are human and want real power and know that a political party's job is to stand in elections. Their logic is arcane and limited to this particular election: in finally achieving power, they reason, New Labour will at a stroke lose one of its most vote-worthy assets — the urgent desire of so many people to have political change. It is these people some Greens want to target. They will not seek their votes this time, because bringing down the Tories, they recognise, will appear far more to disaffected Labourites and natural greens than helping the Green Party achieve a result interpreted yet again as "miserable..." No, they say, take the long view. Use the next election to go for the millions (their words) who see increasingly little difference between Labour and Conservative (the

phrase "Blairchism" is circulating) and feel that now more than ever there is room for a radical, modern political party untainted by old, failed ideas and that is in touch with the street. The best they can do in 1997, they argue, is to use the system which will allow them one meagre TV broadcast to advertise for new members. The logic is that fighting a losing battle simply recycles despondency. But the proposal to withdraw from the election which will be put before the party's meeting in nine days' time, is a rogue. Like it or not there will be Greens standing in many seats next year because all local Green Parties are autonomous and do not need head office to tell them what to do. They call it participatory democracy, and indeed, some local groups (Oxford, Brighton) are buzzing.

THEY rubbish dreary, predictable talk about despondency and the end of green politics in Britain. They say that this is to miss the point which is that below the antennas of the political commentators (though not, perhaps of Hugo Young, unobserved by television, greenery is becoming a real political talking shop, with the most passionate debate in town about democracy, rights, equality and justice. Undoubtedly a new, sharp generation of a-party-political activists is emerging out of the road protests, the urban street parties and the less stupine environmental groups. Their campaigns are no longer one-issue. They believe

that they are reflecting a new idealism in the streets. And anyone listening to the passionate debate about ethics or democracy at this year's (very big) Big Green Gathering or goes to the meetings of direct action group Earth First! will recognise a new vitality and eagerness to achieve grassroots political change. In terms of the cynical established party machinery it seems naive at times, but no one should deny that it's fresh and informed by real experience rather than party dogma or passed down by elders or betters as the authoritarian word. Older greens look on at the new anarchic elements, recognise themselves 30 years ago, and take either hope or their leave. Historically they recognise that Green parties are ascendant everywhere where there is PR. In Germany the *realists* in Die Grünen are tacking real power. There are dozens of countries now. They point to Ralph Nader, standing as a first-time green in the US, to 10 per cent Euro-votes in Luxembourg, Ireland, a few less in Austria, Finland. Even Taiwan has a green MP.

And they say that for a party with fewer than 4,000 members (but rising), the Greens have actually done rather well. They have a senior MP in Cynog Dafis (Plaid Cymru MP for Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire), they have campaigned successfully on the homeless, led the opposition to the Criminal Justice Act, and seen through the Energy Conservation Bill. Meanwhile the Real World Coalition is taking shape. The

Jonathan Porritt initiative launched in April loosely binds more than 30 of Britain's most radical social change and other campaigning organisations under the banner of social and political renewal. Working across new economies, environment, agriculture, poverty, development and transport, they hug traditional Green ideas and collectively argue the obvious: that we have an antidivine, atrophied political system that is falling utterly to address the changes needed to bring Britain into line with modern democracies. By any measure, its significance is extraordinary and the attraction of its ideas undeniable to the young and the socially conscious, but in the hurly-burly world of macho politics and follow-my-leader media, it has been all but ignored.

Together the groups (membership more than 2 million) believe they offer a different set of values and perspectives and, most importantly, answers. Together, they say, they will stand at the next election, not as a party (they would not be allowed to because of charity rules) but yelling from the sidelines, demanding that the two political parties address a positive programme of change. The Greens and the media look on and laugh, saying Real World is little more than an underfunded lobby group. And there in a nutshell is the crisis in British politics: when not even the Greens will support their natural allies and their natural allies despair of their natural party, then the malaise must be deep indeed.

RISEING DAMP?

TACKLE IT WITH WALLGUARD

A SYSTEM IN PRACTICE FOR OVER 60 YEARS

The Wallguard ceramic tube system of damp proofing has been in use in ancient and famous buildings for many years. A prime example is Westminster Abbey in which the system was first fitted in 1932 and was recently added to by Wallguard.

- No internal plaster disturbed
- Suitable for any type of wall finish
- Vent plus available in white or brown to match wall
- Ceramic tubes tailor made to fit any thickness of wall

You can have the Wallguard system installed in your home to combat rising damp or replace a conventional damp proof course that has failed. Since Wallguard is normally fitted from the outside, internal wall surfaces and decorations need not be disturbed — unless they are already badly affected. Brick, Stone, Granite etc. Whatever thickness of wall we can do it.

Local Authority & Building Society Approved

NO MAINTENANCE NO MESS NO FUSS

Also ask about our condensations and mould control service.

WALLGUARD

YOU'RE HOME AND DRY

For further details or to arrange for a survey
PHONE US FREE ON 0800 508608

Fill in the coupon — no postage required to: Wallguard Manchester M16 8HB.

My chemical injection has failed No existing damp proof course
 Conventional damp course has failed Condensation Control
 I would like to eliminate damp once and for all

Name: _____ Address: _____
Telephone: _____ Postcode: _____

Sent to: WALLGUARD, FREEPOST MR 8787, MANCHESTER M16 8HB.

Harald Penrose

An Everest in the skies

THE DOYEN of British test pilots, Harald "Hal" Penrose who died aged 82, was the first man to fly higher than the highest point on earth. It was in late 1932 and early 1933 that Penrose tested the open-cockpit Houston-Westland PV3 biplane. Financed by Lady Houston, the aeronautical philanthropist, and supported by the Air Ministry, the PV3 was intended for an attempt to fly over the 29,029-foot peak of Mount Everest in the Himalayas. This did he fly to 35,000 feet over Dorset. Thanks to Penrose's test flying, the aerial conquest of Everest was accomplished on April 3, 1953 by two Westland biplanes flown by the Marquis of Clydesdale and D.F. McIntyre. A documentary film, *Wings Over Everest*, followed.

Penrose was also an aeronautical engineer, author and historian. During 23 years as Westland Aircraft's chief test pilot, he tested and flew nearly 400 aircraft types, including all of the company's prototypes, and flying boats, airliners, autogyros and heli-

copters. His five-volume *British Aviation*, which he wrote over 13 years, is a classic, a testimony to his life in the industry and to his determination that its story should be chronicled first-hand.

Penrose had his first flight as a 15-year-old in 1919, studied aeronautical engineering at London University, and joined Westland in Yeovil in 1926 as a designer-technician. A year later he learned to fly in the Reserve of Air Force Officers and in 1928 was appointed manager of Westland's civil aircraft department, also gaining a commercial-class pilot's licence. In 1931 he became chief test pilot, a position he held until 1953.

In 1933, after the altitude record, Penrose also designed, built and flew what was then the smallest glider in the world, "Pegasus". In that decade, too, he test-flew the extraordinary tail-less, variable sweepback-wing Westland Pterodactyl. In 1938, aged 32, he became the youngest person ever to be elected a fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society. In 1946 he was awarded an OBE for his war-

time test-flying. Seven years later he became Westland's sales manager, and later group sales manager and a special director of the combined Westland, Bristol and Saunders-Roe helicopter group, retiring in 1968.

Penrose started writing articles on aircraft and bird flight between the wars. The first of his 11 books, *I Flew with the Birds*, was published in 1949 and was followed by his initial autobiography, *No Echo in the Sky*, and later *British Aviation*. His full autobiography, *Adventures with Fate*, was published in 1984.

He was still flying his biplane over his beloved Wessex countryside, and sailing his yacht, well into his eighties. He was a qualified naval architect, and designed sailing dinghies, yachts and power boats. He continued to write until a few months ago.

His wife Nora, who he had married in 1929, died in 1986. He is survived by his son Ian.



The ascent of man... Harald Penrose (centre) with fellow Westland test pilots

Joyce Plesters

Secrets of the old masters

JOYCE Plesters, who has died aged 88, played a central role in understanding the painting techniques of the old masters. As a conservation scientist at the National Gallery her work analysing paint samples revealed not only the materials used by artists and thus how to conserve their works but also added to the understanding of art history as a whole.

In 1949, after a science degree at Holloway College, London, she became the third member of the National Gallery's budding scientific department, where she remained until retirement in 1987. There she soon became skilled in the microanalytical identification of pigments and, crucially for the subsequent understanding of the techniques of the painters, a

pioneer in the analysis of pinhead sized cross-sections of painting structures, sampled at the very edge of areas of damage. Minute, barely visible without magnification, the samples are embedded in cubes of transparent resin. Subsequently they are ground down and polished to reveal the build-up of grounds, underlayers, dense paint and glazes when viewed under the microscope.

Plesters researched into the vital areas of how painting techniques have changed over the last 700 years and, once the composition of a painting was known, how best to slow down the gradual deterioration of the materials used. Her expertise, refined technique and ever-increasing mastery in her field led to her being widely consulted by art museums worldwide.

After the Venice floods of 1966 she was asked to set up analytical laboratories in Florence as well as in Venice. Through this and subsequent work on the restoration of the church of Madonna dell'Orto in Venice, with its cycle of large canvases by Tintoretto, she retained a deep understanding and love for this art.

In 1976 she planned the analytical laboratory of the Hamilton Kerr Institute, set up to train picture conservators and trained its first scientist. Her meticulous laboratory work was backed by a love of painting and knowledge of the works in the world's major art galleries. Her work not only reinforced the work of conservationists but also aided the study of art history. Through her work

she discovered, for example, that Titian applied a thin layer of gesso over his canvas, enabling him to sketch rough outlines of his figures which subsequently disappeared when the applied paint soaked into the gesso ground.

She was the first analyst to note that, in his later paintings, Rembrandt used fine glass particles, containing cobalt and arsenic, mixed into the dark paint, thus providing art historians with another clue in differentiating his early work from his later and from that of his followers.

Small of stature, sharp featured and resolute, Joyce had in her earlier years the enviable ability to sit up all night, if necessary, to write up reports or lectures, without showing the least signs of fatigue on the following day. Her unflappable exterior hid an astute sense of humour and much kindness. In 1939 she married Norman Brommelle, whom she had known in his National Gallery days but who had by then been appointed Keeper of Conservation at the Victoria & Albert Museum. Their house in Peckham was furnished with 19th century furniture and china, including an extensive collection of jugs produced prior to the death of Prince Albert, reflecting her interest in the early years of Queen Victoria's reign. She was a keen and knowledgeable gardener, with impressive results in the large garden of their 18th century thatched cottage near Lambour.

After her retirement Norman and Joyce moved to a village in Umbria, where again an English garden was in the making. Norman died in 1989 but Joyce determined to soldier on in the company of her dachshund, Simon III, and her singer cat, Nicky IV. Until illness overtook her early this year, her views and advice were consistently sought by colleagues in the world of old paintings and museums. She will be greatly missed by them, as well as by her numerous friends.



Art through the microscope... Joyce Plesters at work in the National Gallery

Letters

Christopher Bell writes: Erskine Childers (obituary September 3) wrote the seminal 1902 book *The Road to Suzet*, in which he did so much to open British eyes to the cause of the Palestinians. There was a major shift in the left's view of Israeli expansionism in the 1960s and 1970s, for which Childers's writing and advocacy can take much of the credit. He was also a brilliant broadcaster and a delight in which various young BBC World Service producers. A few of his later programmes on African matters caused tremors in Whitehall and the occasional unsubtle suggestion that he be dropped. Happily, World Service management firmly resisted such pressure.

Betty Read

The almoner's caseload

FROM 1947 to 1970 Betty Read, who has died aged 66, was head of the social work department of St Thomas's Hospital, London, which was the unit of care, and the caring team in the community.

Her sensitivity to family issues was based on a commitment to her own family. Never married herself, she lived at home to help care for her parents and, later, her brother. She was a loving and wise aunt and sister-in-law.

For many years she battled with arthritis and consequent operations, cheerfully making little of ill health. Her ever enquiring Christian faith underpinned an unselfish but happy life and saw her through many crises. She tidied up her life with objec-

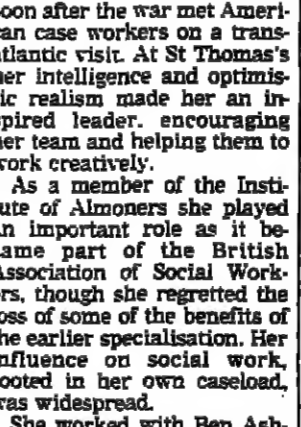
tive efficiency, but never her room, which remained piled with papers and books, making a visit a cheerful hazard.

Her last three years were spent at St Christopher's Hospice in the wing donated by the Drapers' Company, following yet another introduction from Betty Read herself. There she made new friends and welcomed many old ones, cared for by staff who, like many others, will deeply miss her unfailing welcome. She has left a lasting heritage for which she deservedly received her MBE in 1969.

Terry Mullins writes: The great Bulgarian soprano Lyuba Welitsch (obituary September 3) made a poignant appearance on the 1960 Decca recording of *Die Fledermaus*. This gala performance, recorded in Vienna and conducted by Herbert von Karajan, had an interpolated scene in which various opera luminaries on Decca's roster were brought on to sing a party piece. Right at the end came Welitsch singing an unforgettable *Vienna, City of my Dreams*.

Birthdays

Thomas Allen, operatic baritone, 52; Gee Armytage, jockey, 31; Ebbett Cole, children's writer, 47; Diana Colegate, novelist, 65; Beryl Cook, painter, 70; Louise Coll, former ambassador to Costa Rica, 61; Brian Donohue, Labour MP, 48; Ted Edgar, show jumper, 58; John Entwistle, rock guitarist, 52; Judy Geeson, actress, 48; Prof. Chevalier Herbert Gilles, authority on tropical medicine, 75; Christopher Hogwood, harpsichordist, 55; The Very Rev. Michael Mayne, Dean of Westminster, 67; Norman Morrice, choreographer, 65; Lord Nolan, arbiter of standards in public life, 68; Arnold Palmer, golfer, 67; Denis Richards, air historian, 88; Dame Betty Riddle, former Church Commissioner, 87; Dr Brian Smith, chairman, BAA, 88; Prof. Carol Weight, CH, painter and art teacher, 88; Robert Wise, film director and producer, 82; Fay Wray, actress, 88.



Read... family issues

Robert Lynn

A Scots world of anarchy

IT WAS the Glasgow anarchist Group of the early 1970s which provided the most fruitful forum for the ideas of Robert Lynn, who has died aged 72. Amidst a blossoming of literature and direct action, pamphlets bearing Robert Lynn's signature with titles like *Practical Anarchy* and *Why Vote?* were avidly read.

Born in the Calton in Glasgow's East End he left St Mungo's Academy at 14 and became a shipyard engineering apprentice. During the second world war, the influential shop stewards' committees were dominated by the Communist Party, but their policy of subordinating the workers' interest to those of the Soviet Union drew a withering fire from anarchists, Trotskyists and non-CP socialists. It was then that Robert Lynn began to study Bakunin's ideas and industrial syndicalism.

In the immediate post-war years Lynn's influence became increasingly irritating to both shipbuilding employers and communist-led union officials, and as a result he was blacklisted. Jobless, he became a Merchant Navy engineering officer and spent some years seeing the world — and enveloping himself in syndicalism and the ideas of Max Stirner.

Returning to Glasgow in the early 1960s, he threw himself into marriage, trade unionism and the Glasgow Anarchist Group, which was only partly in the world, as the writer and academic anarchist George Woodcock wrote, "where the egocentric philosophies of Max Stirner took root and were given popular expression."

THE ANARCHISTS held open forums in Glasgow's Renfrew Street alongside the Socialist Party of Great Britain, nationalists and Trotskyists who regularly debated — sometimes physically — and where ordinary working-class men and women passionately discussed the ideas of Fourier, Clara Zetkin, Bakunin, Kropotkin and many others. Lynn revealed in his "university of life".

In the late 1950s the Glasgow Anarchist Group disintegrated, and its reorganisation was left to Lynn. He immersed himself in his local community of the Calton, where he and Jean, his constant companion, became well-loved characters. He went to work at Hadden's engineering plant on the south side of Glasgow, while with the 1970s the anarchist group flourished. A great number of events were initiated by Lynn, especially the now traditional Glasgow anarchist summer school which attracts libertarian socialists from all over Britain.

Robert Lynn was generous to a fault. He did not suffer fools gladly but rarely had a bad word to say about anyone. He is survived by Jean and daughters Jean, Joan and Betty.

Stuart Christie
Robert Lynn, anarchist, born February 5 1924; died August 16 1996

Death Notices
BANKS, Hubert Baron aged 70. Died August 9th at Hammanston Hospital. Funeral Saturday September 14th 11.00am. St. James Church, Talbot Road, London W11. Burial at Kensal Green Cemetery followed by Reception at Tabernacle Community Centre, Talbot Road W11.

Births
GOLDING, David and Lynn a daughter. Dyma, Rebecca. Wyn known as Beth. 20th August.

WTG please your announcements telephone 0171 713 4567. Fax 0171 713 4129.

Jackdaw



Good God
ANY religious organisation in the world is invited to enter their god. Only one entry per religion is allowed. Onlookers may cheer for their god by offering prayers, songs, epithets or verbal abuse. The winning god will receive all money, possessions and property held by churches, organisations and representatives of the losing gods. In the eventuality that there is no winner, then all money, property and possessions of all the religions in the world will be turned over to a Committee of Common Sense for distribution to the betterment of conditions of all living creatures.

Virgin Impregnated: Gods of any sex are invited. They need not demonstrate any specific skill at love-making, or any parental responsibility. The virgin will be chosen by the Committee of Judges. The lady will be kept in total isolation for a period of three months prior to allowing the challenging god to accomplish this task. The virgin will be kept in isolation for a period of nine months. The child may be of any sexual orientation but should be observably human.

Corpses Raised: Any human corpse in a stage of putrefaction can be entered. The Committee of Judges will examine the body to verify that it is actually dead. The corpse will be locked in a private chamber, where it can be observed objectively. Absolutely no one will be allowed inside the chamber. The Committee of Judges will determine when the deceased is a cognisant human being again. Revitalising hibernating hamsters does not count.

Choice of (a) Multitude Fed or (b) Sick Healed: This represents the practical part of the contest. Gods may pick A or B. A: Gods may choose to heal a

physically handicapped person, chosen by the Contest's Committee of Judges. This person will be an amputee. The god must be able to demonstrate, beyond a shadow of a doubt, the ability to perform a miraculous healing by making the missing limb grow back. B: Gods may choose to feed every starving person and creature in an impoverished nation, chosen by the Contest's Committee of Judges. The food must be abundantly apparent for one full year after the acceptance of this particular challenge.

The contest in the Inferna is an attempt to bring a "final resolution to all religious wars, controversy and hypocrisy." found at www2.islandnet.com/luree/contest.html

Designer death
EXPERTS in inexpensive, green and DIY funerals, the National Death Centre helps people achieve the funeral of their choice. (Back garden burial, for example, has been legal since the Quakers were founded, although a corpse in the garden can deter house buyers.) It also organises Nat-

ural Death Salons where — over tea and cakes — you can plan your own funeral, from the invitations to the activities such as "group scribbling on the coffin" (like signing a plaster cast). Then there are the finer points of corpse care: "Tea-tree and lavender oils can stop deterioration, but it's still a good idea to turn the heating down." One therapist enthused about sharing the bed with the deceased: "It is really a beautiful thing. You can sleep with the body or watch television just 10".

Just a couple of ideas on dealing with death: Other suggestions used to make your funeral, film or get your coffin early from Heaven on Earth in Bristol, who provide coffins which double as spice racks, cubboards, and even shoe boxes where you can store your shoes till you pop your clogs. Harper's and Queen.

Prima lady
"WHEN I was first asked by Lindsay to be the guest editor of Prima's 10th Anniversary issue, I couldn't believe my

luck. I have always been fascinated by women's magazines and a fan of Prima. Editing it turned out to be even more interesting than I had expected... I chose to highlight three subjects. As a working mother I know just how important good child care is, so I wanted to focus on the work of the many after-school clubs in the UK. As a young barrister I've handled many cases of domestic violence and I therefore wanted to highlight the work of Refuge, which celebrates its 35th birthday this year. I also wanted to applaud the magnificent job that's being done every day of the week by the thousands of carers up and down the country — especially the children. As a keen knitter myself, I love the mother and daughter jumpers, which Kathryn and I will wear again and again. And I was delighted that Paul Costello was able to design my ideal dress for Prima readers — one that can be worn to work during the day and still look fantastic in the evening. Prima also solved another problem for me: how do you

produce a meal that's interesting and nutritious in 30 minutes? I have enjoyed every minute of my guest editorship, but most of all I enjoyed meeting Prima readers. They made me feel so welcome and we were able to share the difficulties of and delights of bringing up children, helping your partner and still finding time to fulfill yourself.

The sharing, caring Cherie Blair introduces her guest edited October issue of Prima. It includes 101 Clever Cooking

101
Get organized!
What's new?
The ultimate guide
7 health tips for

Tips. You Prove It We Can All Wear Trousers. The Ultimate Guide to Styling Your Hair. 7 Health Risks You Don't Know About and the Designer Dress You Can Make.

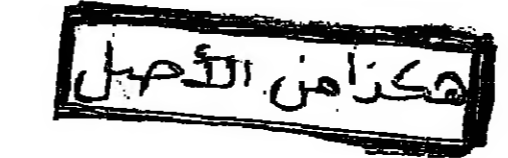
Slippery pole
OVER TO London public relations agency Burson-Marsteller — the people who thought up the brand name "I can't believe it's not Butter" — where associate director Simon Tittley is bent on cleaning up their literary act. He recently issued a seven-page guidance memo to staff titled *Let's run this up the flagpole and see who salutes — a guide to defeating PR jargon, gobbledegook, buzz-words and clichés.* He quotes the opening verses of the King James version of the Bible: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the earth. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light: if King James had given the

drafting job to a PR agency, argues Simon, it would probably have read like this: "At the outset, God's agenda was basically to focus on his core deliverables, namely two leading-edge products, a) Heaven and b) earth." "However the earth lacked an overall concept, and had a low profile in terms of its key audiences. Obviously the spirit of God had to step back and benchmark the existing waters before his game plan could get them the green light. "And God's key message was that light was a strategic objective, and it was covered off." It goes on: "So God branded the light 'day' and the darkness 'I Can't Believe It's Not Light.' Stage Screen and Radio provide the leading edge on advertising activities. Thanks to Stephen Hopkins.

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Emily Sheffield

Pointer
Ste
P&O
£2.60
L
Morgan
puts
deals
M
Gates
Murdo
Paine
R
V



Robert Lynn
A Scots world of anarchy

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Sterling silences his critics

P&O deal builds £2.6bn business

Lisa Buckingham

Lord Sterling yesterday fought back against recent criticism of his stewardship of the transport and property group P&O by sewing up an Anglo-Dutch merger to create the world's biggest container shipping group.

At one time, shares in P&O soared by 53p to 570p, a record for the year, before dropping back to 559½p, up 42½p, as the group said it would form a joint venture with Holland's

P&O
Grossed turnover: £2.6 bn
Net asset value: £1 bn
Joint fleet: 112 ships
Net backlog: £300 mn
Merger savings: £130 mn p.a.
Cargo capacity: 2.3 ton ton p.a.
20K container equivalents

Nedlloyd

would be disappointed if cost savings from the container ship merger were not significantly higher than those already identified.

Large new vessels, able to carry the equivalent of 6,500

containers, should help as they are about £85 a container cheaper to operate. But there will also be savings from eliminating route overlap and a number of the agencies around the world, and establishing a combined information technology system.

Questions remain about the ability of the container companies to renegotiate existing trade alliances. Both P&O and Nedlloyd already have global trade-sharing partners which will inevitably be disrupted by yesterday's deal.

Lord Sterling predicted, however, that the merger could be the first phase in a worldwide rationalisation of the container shipping business, rather like the shake-up in aviation a decade back.

He was convinced this "proactive" agreement would be discussed in shipping boardrooms around the world. In order to create a 50/50 partnership, Nedlloyd has agreed to buy some containers from P&O for £113 million to equalise each company's contribution to the container ship business. P&O will receive a further £67 million when inter-company debts have been settled and the deal will eliminate nearly £270 million from the British group's debt.

Importantly for P&O, the deal hives off the container ship business which — while performing up to industry standards — was producing returns too low to keep shareholders happy.

Separation of the container operations also removes a business regarded as capital-intensive. It is estimated that the new P&O Nedlloyd will spend about £500 million over the next three years, but this will be raised without help from its parent groups.

Global banking for 21st century



Edited by Alex Brummer

THE decision by the Bank for International Settlements, the Basle-based central bankers' club, to widen its membership to include nine emerging market countries, represents a critical milestone for the global economic order.

It has been evident since the IMF's 50th anniversary meetings in Madrid in 1994, that the richer industrial countries can no longer cajole or bully their developing country counterparts to order, any more than they can prevent the export of jobs to Asia — as the British Airways imbroglio shows.

Until now, however, the emerging markets nations have had real difficulty in making it to the top table. The efforts to redistribute quotas, the equivalent of shares, to newcomers has stalled. Germany continues to block the sale of IMF gold to support debt forgiveness for the poorest countries.

And while the richer countries are willing to allow the newly emerging surplus nations, like Singapore, to join their emergency funding facility, they still continue to balk at allowing the newcomers to join in discussions of broader issues, such as credit risk in the banking system.

Given the inherent conservatism of the BIS, which is best known for developing rules designed to underpin the safety of bank balance sheets, it is perhaps the last place most people would have looked for reform. In fact, it seemed particularly impossible at the BIS, which has been the bastion of the old-style European economic order.

Quietly, however, its general manager, Andrew Crockett, has been working behind the scenes to widen the franchise. He has changed the nature of BIS monthly meetings, to give a wider group of central bankers the chance to air their views. Now he has been successful in winning places for them on the BIS board.

The new intake will include the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, the People's Bank of China, Banco Central do Brasil, Reserve Bank of India, Banco de Mexico, the Russian central bank and the Saudi Arabian and Singapore monetary authorities.

As a result, the newcomers will now be able to directly influence the views of the G10 leading industrial countries. Moreover, by drawing countries like Singapore into the net, it should be easier to ensure their co-operation in future banking crises — should, for instance, another Barings occur.

Membership of the BIS will bring with it status, but also greater global responsibilities. The BIS — set up in the wake of the first world war as a payments organisation for German reparations — has, in effect, become the first global financial institution of the 21st century.

Sterling revival

WHAT a difference a deal makes. Just two months back, City gossip held that Lord Sterling — the autocratic and highly influential boss of P&O — would be lucky to hold on to his boardroom seat.

He was accused of taking an altogether too soft-hearted approach to the group's cargo shipping businesses and there were those who said he did not have the stomach for radical surgery.

But Sterling had already responded to investor discontent by signalling a withdrawal from bulk shipping. And anyone ready to lend an ear would have known he had been trying (on and off for years as it turns out) to secure a merger which would get the poorly performing container shipping business off P&O's books.

City short-termists saw nothing but foot-dragging. P&O was sclerotic, ripe for break-up with someone else at the helm. It was said. But it now emerges that delay had paid off — the container ship operation has been given a sporting chance by being put into a venture big enough to top the world rankings, in a business where size is a crucial factor of success.

Shares leapt joyously at the latest sign that Sterling's deal-making prowess has not deserted him. And, despite a fierce nationalism, the P&O boss yesterday talked tough in terms of transferring shares off the British register if it proved more cost effective to fly the Dutch flag.

There is little doubt that Sterling has spent too heavily on a shipping business which defied decent returns and he has presided over the dissipation of assets to the system operated by the airlines and ferries.

But his critics in the City are now doing a U-turn, as they rush to "discover" new potential in the P&O shares. So far, the group's major shareholders, who backed him when others would have handed him his sword, have been vindicated.

Morgan affair puts in-house deals in doubt

Paul Murphy and Richard Miles

MORGAN Grenfell's reputation as one of the country's most successful managers of company pension schemes is set to suffer "deep, long-term damage", one pension trustee said yesterday.

His prediction came as it emerged that about a quarter of the £1.4 billion caught in the investment bank's three stricken unit trusts came from pension funds managed "in-house" by Morgan.

Many investment professionals say that the affair — sparked by the discovery of possible irregularities in funds run by suspended manager Peter Young — will herald a review of the routine practice whereby pension fund managers in large, integrated investment houses direct a large portion of money under management into investment products run by other parts of the group.

Morgan Grenfell has had particular success over recent years in attracting pension funds, with funds under management rising 43 per cent last year to about £14 billion. Clients range from Whitbread to the Merchant Navy Officers Pension Fund and Westminster City Council.

But several funds, including that of the public sector workers' union Unison, are said to have discovered that part of their money had been invested in the biggest of Mr Young's ill-fated unit trusts, the European Growth Trust, and immediately issued redemption instructions.

One trustee, who ordered Morgan to take his pension fund out of the unit trust late last week, said the investment bank had "tried some serious arm-twisting" to get him to change his mind.

"I accept that when we were put into this particular fund it was simply because it appeared to give us the right exposure to Europe and was performing well. But the potential conflicts are clear," he added.

Morgan said fresh redemptions had slowed substantially, with £39 million being removed from the three funds yesterday after the £160 million taken out last week.

The investment bank declined to comment on what portion of the funds reflected investment business passed on from other parts of the Morgan group — such as from private client portfolios under discretionary management, as well as pension funds.

City fund managers said the long-term prospects for the three European funds still looked grim and predicted that investors would continue to remove cash. One said: "It will be death by a thousand cuts."

Deutsche Bank, Morgan's parent, took another public step towards tightening control of its British subsidiary by seconding a manager from its Frankfurt-based fund management unit, DWS, Udo Behrenwald, to London in a "consultative" role.

Chairman delivers mellow valediction to restive investors



Stepping down — and up... Sir Alastair Morton, left, and his successor, Robert Malpas

Eurotunnel begins to dig itself out of hole

Simon Beavis

SIR Alastair Morton, the combative chairman of Eurotunnel, bade a gentle farewell to the company yesterday with the message: "My part of the job is done."

All a bit false, of course. Just as Sir Alastair is unlikely to mellow at this point in his career, he does not leave for another eight weeks and knows there is much to do before he can start a long-planned six-month holiday.

But after nearly 10 years battling to get one of Europe's most ambitious infrastructure projects realised, he had a right to be a touch sentimental as the company produced healthy-looking half-year results.

The truth — as Sir Alastair and fellow directors made clear — is that these results are of limited significance if the company, with a stock market value of just under £1 billion, fails to achieve agreement with its 225 bankers on refinancing debts of nearly £9 billion. An increasingly restive army of shareholders needs to be appeased, however.

On the operating level things do seem to be looking good. After the delays — which saw the tunnel come into full operation nearly two years late — it is carving out

a convincing and growing market share.

On the lucrative Dover/Folkestone-Calais route it claims to be seeing off a costly and congested push by the ferry companies and has achieved a 45 per cent share of the car market with its Le Shuttle service. What Sir Alastair and co-chairman Patrick Ponsolle called "our growing mastery of our transport system" has led to spectacular increases in all types of traffic volume.

Revenues were up from £105 million for the first half of last year to £224 million this time, with the promise that the group is on course to increase 1995's full-year revenues by some 50 per cent to more than £450 million. Its operating losses shrank by £33 million to £373 million. Delays may be a thing of the past for passengers, but the shareholders and banks still need to be patient.

The company was not being very forthcoming about the eventual shape of the debt settlement.

But the co-chairmen left shareholders in little doubt that the deal would involve sacrifices. In a joint letter, they said it would be "a number of years" before shareholders or banks saw returns approximating those originally anticipated. "Everyone has to accept certain sacrifices."

Later, Sir Alastair declined to say whether banks would end up owning more than half of Eurotunnel but insisted the French shareholders would not accept "something that wipes them out". He added: "It isn't going to be an Anglo-Saxon-creditor-takes-all deal."

But shareholders must real-



PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEBBER

Gates puts dent in Murdoch vanity

Pauline Springett

RUPERT MURDOCH is unlikely to lose much sleep, but the media tycoon has been toppled from the top spot in Vanity Fair's annual list of leaders of the "information age".

Microsoft's Bill Gates is now king of Vanity Fair's glossy castle, thanks to the expansion of his business empire in the past year.

However, apparently mindful of the future that can be triggered by lists of the rich and famous, the US up-market, style magazine refrains from ranking the top 50 in terms of wealth.

Publicity for the list, which is contained in the magazine's October issue, to be published tomorrow, states that the chosen 50 are "ranked by power, influence, and billions, together with their X factor (a mixture of leadership, charisma, and style)". Clear? Vanity Fair appears to

Tunnel traffic

	August 1995	August 1996
Le Shuttle: tourists	145,881	304,032
Le Shuttle: freight (trucks)	36,517	46,045
No. of Eurostar passengers	279,449	566,247
No. of rail freight tonnes	90,131	134,774

* excluding coaches

ise that in the long term the banks will be in control. Observers expect the group to swap £1 billion-£1.5 billion of debt for equity in the first instance, leaving the banks with nearly 49 per cent of the shares.

Chunks of the remaining debt will then be parcelled up into either loan stock which will convert into Eurotunnel shares if the company fails to meet targets, or into bonds. Eventually the banks are likely to control all but a tiny proportion of the equity.

Shareholders may see this as a raw deal. But their choice is stark. As one analyst put it: "If this project hadn't been so politically sensitive, the banks would have marched all over the shareholders already."

The deal — which Sir Alastair insists will require eight more hours of negotiation — would give investors a slice of a company which even the sternest critics agree could have a viable future. Failure to strike a deal would leave them with shares in a company which is not just technically bankrupt, but actually bust.



Murdoch... usurped in Vanity Fair rankings by Gates

Chunnel bonus

FINANCIALLY Eurotunnel has been a disaster for the shareholders who believed the company's stock marketing campaign and the bankers who backed the project and have declared a debt moratorium.

Whichever way the half-year losses of £37.7 million are cut, the project cannot be considered a commercial success. Even now, the marketing and ticketing end of the operation — a primitive comparison to the system operated by the airlines and ferries.

Yet despite this mess, and the defensive bluster in which the retiring chairman Sir Alastair Morton specialises, one cannot be too negative. He brought to fruition one of the world's greatest engineering projects, permanently linking Britain to Europe, EMU or not. Perhaps such achievements should not be counted financially.

Sainsbury scrubs 'green' cleaners off shopping list

Roger Cowe

SAINSBURY yesterday dealt another blow to a leading producer of "environment friendly" cleaning products by claiming its goods were no greener than rivals' lines.

The supermarket group says, in its first environmental report, it has decided to scrap some Greencare products because their environmental performance is no longer any better than conventional products.

The move follows criticism of suppliers by the National Consumer Council earlier this year, which said shoppers were confused by environmental claims.

Sainsbury accepts the NCC charges and urges the Government to act on product environmental claims.

In his introduction to the report, chairman David Sainsbury said: "We issue this first Environmental Report in the knowledge that, although much work has been done, much is still required. "We see this report not as a public demonstration of our achievements, but as an announcement of the issues that we as a company intend to address."

Environmentalist Jonathon Porritt said in his foreword that Sainsbury's targets were not tough enough.

Welcoming the report, he pointed out: "The targets set by Sainsbury's are not exactly breathtaking — the hoped-for efficiency gains in its HGV fleet, for instance, will clearly not be sufficient."

Sainsbury says it is working out what "sustainable development" means for its business, but that is unlikely to lead to acceptance of environmentalists' criticisms.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.80	France 7.8925	Italy 2.315	Singapore 2.145
Austria 15.25	Germany 2.25	Japan 15.415	South Africa 4.835
Belgium 46.45	Greece 363.25	Netherlands 2.535	Spain 190.5
Canada 2.0925	Hong Kong 11.75	New Zealand 2.185	Sweden 10.24
Cyprus 0.695	India 55.73	Norway 9.75	Switzerland 1.835
Denmark 0.835	Israel 4.92	Portugal 232.5	Turkey 131,590
Finland 6.95	Israel 4.92	Saudi Arabia 5.92	USA 1.525

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel)

Emily Shaffner

Watchdog suffers the indignity of being the biter bitten, writes **Nicholas Bannister**

Rebuke stings BT's sentinel

LUKE March felt he had been slapped in the face when Ofcom used its regulatory powers last week to order British Telecom to stop misleading customers about its rivals.

Mr March, a 46-year-old lawyer who became BT's first compliance director four months ago, thought the problem had been solved and that Ofcom was satisfied with the outcome.

"We concluded our discussions with Ofcom two days before the order was made," he said. "The last thing I did was to ask whether they were satisfied with what we had done. They said we had done everything they wanted us to do. Then two days later we got the order."

"In it the director-general said that one of reasons he had made the order was that further contraventions may occur. That really stung in my gut."

The incident stemmed from a Consumers' Association report which claimed that about 60 per cent of taped interviews with BT staff contained misleading information.

"When we became aware of the allegations we carried out an investigation, found that there was a problem and arranged for all calls about rivals to be referred to a unit specially trained to handle them," Mr March said. All this was done before Ofcom struck.

He admits, however, that the jury at Ofcom is probably still out over his ability to fulfil his brief.

He defines his role as seeing that BT's 130,000 employees comply with telecom and fair-trading regulations, with the group's licence conditions and "with anything that comes out of Ofcom".

For this daunting task he has a team of four, including his secretary. But in practice he is able to draw upon the resources of the group's far larger legal, regulatory affairs and audit departments.

He has no illusions about the task ahead. "In the past BT just did what it wanted to do, and sold the customer," he said, although loyally adding that it had become much more customer-oriented in the past three years.

The majority of the group's employees had worked for it



Laying down the law... Luke March preaches the competitive advantages of compliance

PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

when there was no competition and were not used to having to take competition issues into account. It is a culture which he — and Don Cruickshank, the director-general of Ofcom — want to change.

Since his arrival, all line

managers have been made responsible for ensuring compliance. "This is new for BT," he said. "Line accountability for compliance had not been promulgated strongly, it had just been assumed."

Mr March's message to staff

is that BT can gain a competitive advantage by being seen publicly to comply fully with regulatory standards.

He believes the misleading information uncovered by the Consumers' Association stemmed from over-enthusiastic staff trying to deal with things for which they had not been trained, although he acknowledges that the huge job losses at BT in recent years have put extra pressure on the remaining employees.

Another initiative under way is to set up more robust controls for vetting all advertisements and mail shots. "We were not maximising the expertise we had here," he said.

In addition, all staff have been sent a leaflet outlining BT's "competitive market principles", which include always operating within the legal and regulatory rules, and seeking prices from colleagues at an appropriate level to achieve this.

So, what happens if he feels that something BT is doing, or planning to do, breaches those principles? "I have no power of veto but I have enough ways of putting a spanner in the works, which would be the equivalent of a veto," he said.

The biggest challenge is interpreting the new catch-all

clause outlawing anti-competitive behaviour, which Mr Cruickshank has insisted on inserting in BT's licence in return for relaxing price controls.

Mr March said that in the financial services industry from which he came — he was company secretary and compliance officer of the TSB Group — there would be detailed rules and regulations. But in BT's case "there isn't a rule book".

Ofcom has set out fair-trading guidelines but BT claims these are not detailed enough for it to be sure whether something is or is not anti-competitive.

Mr March, who was born in Utrecht — "my mother is Dutch and I was only there for three months" — retains a number of public service outside interests. For example, he is chairman of the East London and City Health Authority's audit committee and of the National Friends of Citizens Advice Bureaux.

While his powers at BT are more influential than director, he does have one heavy weapon in his armoury. He can resign. It would be a public relations disaster for the telecom group, especially because he has promised that in such a situation he would not go quietly.

Inflation is blocked at factory gate

Sarah Ryle

HOPES that Britain will enjoy low inflation well into 1997 were boosted yesterday by official figures showing price growth in the manufacturing sector was flat in August.

Although factory output has begun to show signs of responding to increased high street spending, the annual rate of its price inflation fell for the eighth month in a row to 2 per cent, a two-year low suggesting that manufacturers have been unable to cash in on increasing demand.

The producer price index, regarded as a useful guide to official inflation, would further tempt Chancellor Kenneth Clarke to cut interest rates, according to City analysts, although they argued that he would have to risk putting them up again before the General Election on September 23. But Mr Clarke is more likely to be influenced by the view that another easing could push his luck just a little too far.

The underlying measure of factory gate price inflation, which excludes food, drink, tobacco and petrol, was flat in August and the annual rate of 1.2 per cent was the lowest since 1987. The month-on-month underlying rate was flat for the fourth month in a row, and the quarterly underlying measure, regarded as the least volatile, fell to 0.3 per cent in August compared to 1.3 per cent at the start of this year.

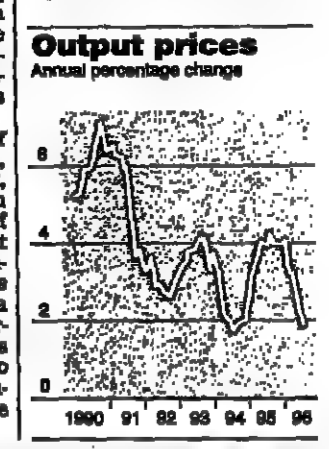
"Inflation looks set to stay this low for some time," said Simon Briscoe, economist at Nikko Bank, adding: "While the rate remains this low and the trend remains favourable, the market should be confident that retail inflation will remain subdued."

With output price pressure so weak, analysts said that retailers should be able to cope with consumers' enthusiasm for bargain-hunting.

The British Retail Consortium's latest sales snapshot, published today, shows that, while retailers reported an annual increase of 6.9 per cent in the like-for-like value of sales last month, the underlying rate of increase in the sector was likely to stabilise at an annual level of 6 to 6.5 per cent.

According to Office for National Statistics figures for producers' input prices, manufacturers will have little reason in the coming months to increase prices to retailers and wholesalers.

The annual, seasonally adjusted measure showed a fall of 2.2 per cent in the year to August, the third negative month in a row.



Danka duplicates itself with Kodak copiers purchase

Chris Barrie
Business Correspondent

DANKA Business Systems, the office equipment supplier, is to double in size following yesterday's announcement that it is buying the troubled photocopying business of Eastman Kodak for \$664 million (£436 million).

The deal sent Danka shares soaring 85p to close at \$66p and restored the company's reputation for acquisitive growth — it made about 50 purchases last year.

Trading in Kodak shares was more subdued, following the company's announcement that it would take a book loss of \$250 million after tax.

Under the terms of the acquisition, Danka will buy Kodak's sales, marketing and service operations, as well as its facilities management business.

Kodak will keep its manufacturing facilities, including three plants in Rochester, New York, Stuttgart in Germany and Mexico. Kodak's photocopying business has a history of making losses.

Some 10,400 Kodak employees will transfer to Danka, including 900 in the UK. The moves will almost

double Danka's work force to 22,000.

Danka sales of \$1.2 billion will rise to some \$3.5 billion, and its US domestic market share will double to 6 per cent.

Danka chairman Mark Vanhusen-Les said the deal would give his company a strong position in the fast-growing segment of the market, high-volume photocopiers which handle large numbers of pages a minute where Kodak is well placed.

The industry leader, Xerox Corporation, admitted the deal was a "significant" change but warned that Danka was "entering a different game with different ground rules". It added that Danka was "on Xerox turf".

For Kodak, the deal is a significant step in the company's strategy of focusing on its core business of traditional photographic imaging, especially in developing countries. The company is also giving a high priority to digital imaging.

Kodak said the retention of its manufacturing operations, and its research and development facilities would enable it to retain and develop technology for its other imaging businesses.



You're used to successful meetings. So are we.

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

News in brief

Panic selling hits troubled Olivetti

A WAVE of panic selling yesterday hit Olivetti, Italy's troubled computer and office equipment group, driving its share price down to a historic low. Investors, faced with a loss of more than half the value of their stake in the firm since the beginning of the year, raced to bail out. Shares were suspended several times and the price fell 21.9 per cent at one point, to an all-time low of 890 lire, plunging through a specially widened 20 per cent fluctuation limit. It closed 19.5 per cent down at 893 lire.

This latest blow came as Francesco Cairo, the new chief executive, flew to London to try to reassure increasingly worried clients that the firm, built up by Carlo De Benedetti, had a future. Olivetti was rocked last week, first by Mr De Benedetti's resignation as chairman, and then by that of chief operating officer Renzo Francesconi, who alleged that the firm's stated first-half losses of 440 billion lire (£151 million) did not give a true financial picture. Mr Cairo said: "The damage has been enormous but Olivetti's potential is even bigger."

But Italian analysts were unconvinced. "The lack of any kind of transparency at Olivetti, the rumours that surface and are denied, and the lack of faith in the accounts are being reflected in the shares," said Giovanni Focchi, who oversees 700 billion lire at Coligest in Milan.

Trading in the shares was halted last week as the company prepared a statement to answer Mr Francesconi's accusations. Consob, the Italian hours watchdog, said it was continuing its investigation of the company. — *John Glover in Milan*

BIS admits nine new banks

THE Bank for International Settlements, set up in Switzerland in 1930 to process German reparations from the first world war, yesterday approved membership for monetary authorities in China, Russia, India, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, Brazil, Mexico and Saudi Arabia.

BIS president Wim Duisenberg said the nine will acquire shares and become full members by next March. They will join the 32 members concentrated in the western industrial states, eastern Europe and former British colonies. — *Bloomberg*

Mercury funds rise to £2bn

MERCURY One-3-One, the mobile phone company, said yesterday that it can now draw on £2 billion of funds — an increase of 83 per cent since April — to boost its mobile phone network. It will use the extra capital, which has come from banks and shareholders, to help achieve its aim of having a 20 per cent market share by the end of the century. — *Pauline Spryngett*

Commerzbank gets caught up in German tax scandals

Jan Trugger in Bonn

THE epidemic of tax evasion scandals plaguing Germany's banks and industrialists spread yesterday to the upper reaches of Commerzbank, following the disclosure that its chairman and three other senior figures are being investigated for alleged financial misdemeanours.

This follows on the heels of the biggest tax fraud inquiry so far, which began last week when 800 investigators raided the Düsseldorf headquarters of West-LB, the country's third biggest bank, seeking evidence of its alleged role in aiding and abetting tax evasion by transferring clients' accounts abroad.

Frankfurt prosecutors said yesterday that Commerzbank chairman Martin Kohlhäuser, predecessor Walter Seipp, the head of the tax department Wolfgang Hoenig, and another board member Kurt Hochhauser, were being investigated for their alleged role in the bank's underpayment of taxes between 1984 and 1988.

Commerzbank, the fourth biggest commercial bank in

Germany, hotly contests the charges and is fighting to regain some of the DM300 million (£130 million) in back taxes it paid earlier this year. "We believe all these charges will be proven untrue," said Peter Fletsch, Commerzbank spokesman. He added that Mr Kohlhäuser had been targeted because he signed the tax returns.

Hans-Olaf Henkel, head of the national industrialists' association, is another in a succession of high-profile names whose tax affairs are being investigated.

Meanwhile, the high street banks are at the centre of a row with the authorities over their part in providing foreign banking, mainly in Luxembourg, for clients attempting to avoid paying tax on savings.

About 17,000 separate investigations into tax fraud are under way and some 50 banks have been raided in recent months.

The tax fraud crackdown is believed to have been ordered by finance minister Theo Waigel, with Chancellor Helmut Kohl's support, not least because of the parlous state of the country's public finances.

John Glover

ation is
acked at
ory gate

a duplicates
with Kodak
rs purchase

zbank gets caught
man tax scandals

Tennis

Pistol Pete fires only a minority

Stephen Bierley on fears of a decline in the United States

WHEN it rains at the US Open they throw in the towel. The mighty American nation has found no better way of dealing with a saturated hard court at Flushing Meadows than sending 30 or so men and women on their knees to dry the surface with white cloths.

Perhaps, better than anything, the sight reflects the true status of the sport in the United States: a long, long way behind American football, baseball, basketball and ice hockey. A minority sport.

The comfort for American fans and the US Tennis Association has been the seemingly unending conveyor belt of successful players, even if the women have had to rely in recent years on two European imports, Martina Navratilova and Monica Seles.

What worries Americans now is the seemingly total lack of gifted youngsters moving up through the junior ranks, particularly on the men's side. In 1981 the US had 55 women in the top 100 and 39 men. A decade later the women's figure had dropped to 25 and the men to 17. And the decline is continuing.

Pete Sampras, who on Sunday won his fourth US Open title after a massive storm had halted play for more than two hours, belongs to a gifted generation of American players which includes Andre Agassi, Todd Martin and MaliVal Washington.

But behind this group the ranks are thin and there is a growing complaint from outside the USA that the nation's governing body is not looking for youngsters in the right places. It continues to search in tennis-friendly areas rather than scouring the inner cities for talent.

There are vested interests at work here, notably Nick Bollettieri and his Florida-based training camp. But he opens his doors to all who can afford it, and the youngsters outside the US. Bollettieri believes this foreign expansion will continue to erode Ameri-

can tennis, and as this continues the home sponsors will inevitably pull out.

This year has been a particularly bad one for the US with American players winning only two of the eight Grand Slam singles titles - Seles in Australia and now Sampras.

In this country of winners such lack of success is not taken philosophically. The women's game has some 60 tournaments in 25 countries with players from 70 nations, and crosses that growth is good for the game. Not in America it ain't.

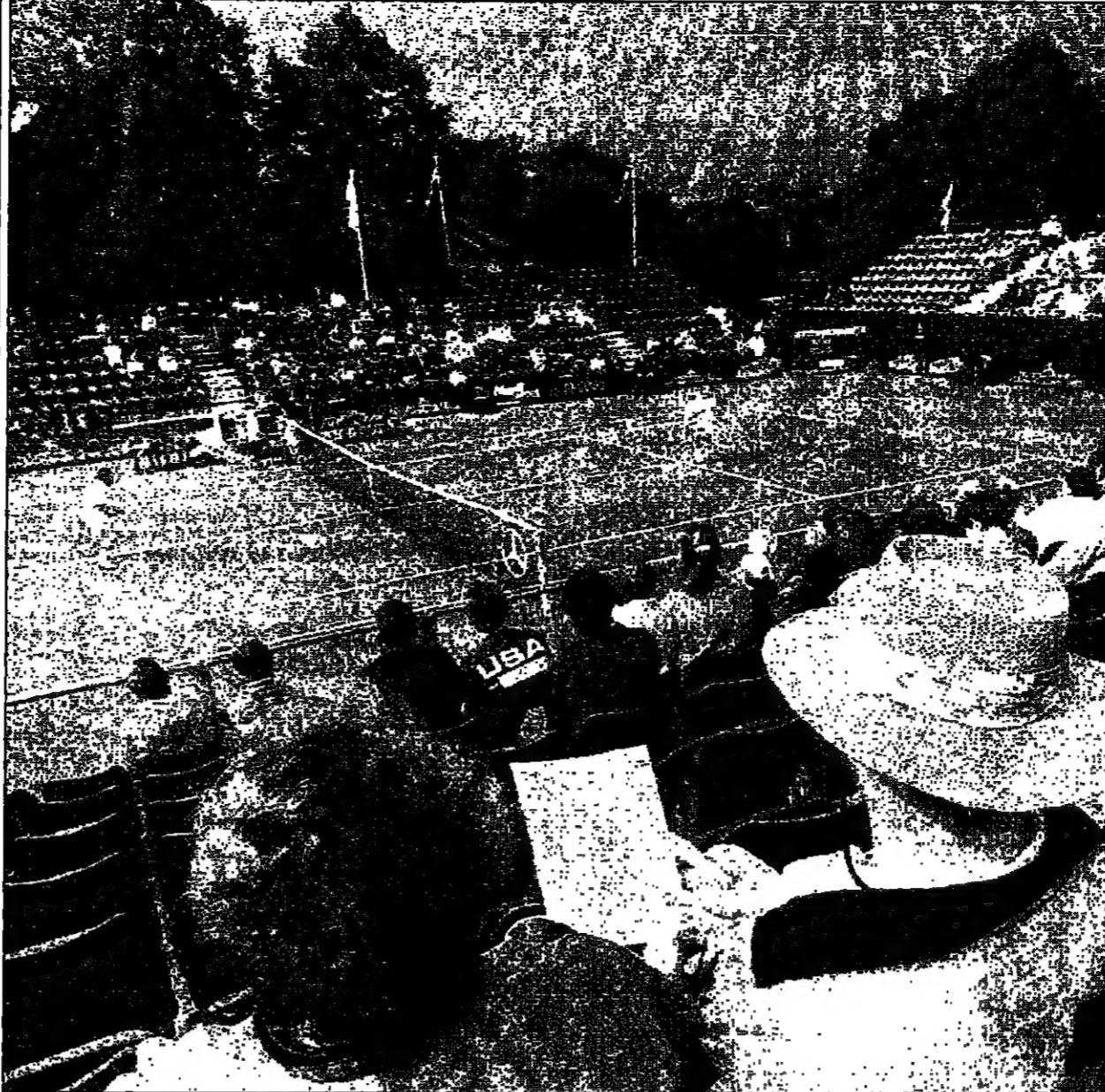
Even when Sampras wins, the public and the media are less than impressed. The Stadium court, staging its last US Open finals before the move to a new stadium adjacent to the old one, was virtually full for the women's final but, by the time the men began, too impatient to wait until the rain stopped. And the remainder watched the match in less than rapture. Nobody, or so it seems, appreciates Pistol Pete unless he is throwing up and staggering about; mere excellence is not enough.

This should possibly serve as a warning to Tim Henman who, after reaching the quarter-finals at Wimbledon, again demonstrated his burgeoning authority by reaching the first round, as he had the last 16 here before falling to Stefan Edberg, playing in his final Grand Slam.

Henman plays similarly to Sampras and in public like-wise struggles to convey his emotions. Sampras is fortunate that he has Agassi as a foil; the Briton has nobody, and this is bound to put great pressure on him during the next couple of formative years.

This was not a great US Open championships. The outstanding men's match was the quarter-final between Sampras and Spain's Alex Corretja, while on the women's side the continued resurgence of Martina Hingis was extremely heartening.

In the end the tides for Steffi Graf and Sampras could be seen as triumphs over adversity. Graf won while her father Peter began his trial for tax evasion in Mannheim; Sampras triumphed on what would have been the 45th birthday of his coach, the closest of friends Tim Gullikson, who died of brain cancer this year.



Anorak weather... a hardy few brave the elements at the West Hants club's first pro men's event for 13 years PHIL YEOHANS

Sapsford delivers early

David Irvine at Bournemouth

TOURNAMENT referees get some odd requests. Danny Sapsford asked Alan Mills for an early start tomorrow here at the Bournemouth International, assuming he survived the first round, as he had an antenatal clinic to attend with his wife.

He may now have more pressing commitments; yesterday he beat Ignacio Trujillo 6-3, 6-4 and came off court to find that his Japanese wife, Yuki, had gone into labour, and late yesterday his coach, who had a baby daughter.

Before going home to Weybridge, Sapsford gave a focused clay-court display that had too much variety for Trujillo, a Spaniard ranked 73 places above him.

David Lloyd, Britain's Davis Cup captain, was delighted with the 27-year-old's form. Now that Jeremy Bates has retired, Sapsford is the only player available who has won a cup singles on clay.

Sapsford understands the subtleties of clay, which is more than can be said for his fellow Britons Colin Beecher, who lost 6-3, 6-2 yesterday to Sweden's Patrik Fredriksson, and the 18-year-old Martin Lee, who lost by the same score to the experienced Guillermo Perez-Roldan of Argentina.

Trujillo lacked the weight of shot to put the nimble Sapsford away and often conceded the longer rallies with wayward forehands. In the first set he was also repeatedly caught by clever drop-shots.

Sapsford was unfortunate on his first match point when Trujillo's return clipped the net and looped over his racket, and then he was broken, but he served out for victory at the second set break.

The conditions were not easy but the chill wind was nothing compared with the snow that forced the final indoors when the last men's event was played at the West Hants club in 1983. The winner then was Jose Higueras and this year his fellow Spaniards Alberto Costa, Felix Mantilla and Sergi Bruguera are among the top five seeds.

Today all eight seeds play, with Britain's Greg Rusedatski, the No. 6, facing Portugal's Joao Cunha Silva. Luke Milligan, who reached the last 32 at Wimbledon, plays the second seed Mantilla.

Tim Henman, the British No. 1, reached a career-best 33rd place in the ATP rankings announced yesterday. His prize-money for the year, after reaching the fourth round of the US Open, stands at £212,000.

Tim Henman, the British No. 1, reached a career-best 33rd place in the ATP rankings announced yesterday. His prize-money for the year, after reaching the fourth round of the US Open, stands at £212,000.

Tim Henman, the British No. 1, reached a career-best 33rd place in the ATP rankings announced yesterday. His prize-money for the year, after reaching the fourth round of the US Open, stands at £212,000.

Tim Henman, the British No. 1, reached a career-best 33rd place in the ATP rankings announced yesterday. His prize-money for the year, after reaching the fourth round of the US Open, stands at £212,000.

Tim Henman, the British No. 1, reached a career-best 33rd place in the ATP rankings announced yesterday. His prize-money for the year, after reaching the fourth round of the US Open, stands at £212,000.

Tim Henman, the British No. 1, reached a career-best 33rd place in the ATP rankings announced yesterday. His prize-money for the year, after reaching the fourth round of the US Open, stands at £212,000.

Tim Henman, the British No. 1, reached a career-best 33rd place in the ATP rankings announced yesterday. His prize-money for the year, after reaching the fourth round of the US Open, stands at £212,000.

Tim Henman, the British No. 1, reached a career-best 33rd place in the ATP rankings announced yesterday. His prize-money for the year, after reaching the fourth round of the US Open, stands at £212,000.

Tim Henman, the British No. 1, reached a career-best 33rd place in the ATP rankings announced yesterday. His prize-money for the year, after reaching the fourth round of the US Open, stands at £212,000.

Tim Henman, the British No. 1, reached a career-best 33rd place in the ATP rankings announced yesterday. His prize-money for the year, after reaching the fourth round of the US Open, stands at £212,000.

Tim Henman, the British No. 1, reached a career-best 33rd place in the ATP rankings announced yesterday. His prize-money for the year, after reaching the fourth round of the US Open, stands at £212,000.

Tim Henman, the British No. 1, reached a career-best 33rd place in the ATP rankings announced yesterday. His prize-money for the year, after reaching the fourth round of the US Open, stands at £212,000.

Tim Henman, the British No. 1, reached a career-best 33rd place in the ATP rankings announced yesterday. His prize-money for the year, after reaching the fourth round of the US Open, stands at £212,000.

Racing

Backers settle on Dushyantor in open Leger

From Cox

REFLECTING the open nature of the race, Saturday's Pertemps St Leger at Doncaster looks set to be fought out by the biggest field since Touching Wood beat 14 rivals in 1982.

Fourteen stood their ground at yesterday's acceptance stage and riding plans have been finalised for all but one of the runners - Chief Contender, who is being joined by stable-mates Heron Island and Desert Boy in the final Classic of the season.

Peter Chapple-Hyam, their trainer, has booked three times Leger-winning rider Willie Carson for Desert Boy, who is a 66-1 shot. John Reid partners the stable's first choice, Heron Island.

Dushyantor seems likely to start clear favourite after working well at Newmarket over the weekend. He was clipped to 100-30 from 7-2 by Hill's yesterday, and is 3-1 market leader with Ladbroke's.

I gather Pat Eddery, due to ride Dushyantor, was impressed by Samraan when he won the John Dunlop-trained colt at Salisbury last week.

John Carroll teams up with Samraan, a 50-1 chance, on Saturday. Reported 'absolute fine' at the Arundel stable yesterday, Samraan travels to Doncaster, with St Mawes, who advanced his Leger chances with a four success in the Gordon Stakes at Goodwood.

Granted good ground, the John Gosden stable anticipates a bold run from Shantou, who is preferred by Frankie Dettori to the Godolphin pair.

Sharaf Kabeer and Prickett. It took Shantou a while to recover from his hard race in the Derby, but he got back to winning form at Windsor and is not considered to be ungenial as has been suggested in some quarters.

Gosden has endured a season he will chiefly want to forget but there are several Stanley House horses to look out for when they encounter good ground.

Three for the notebook this autumn are Maiden Castle, Decoyed Hero and Inquistor, while anyone who saw the manner in which King Sound shaped on his debut behind Falak at Kempton last Friday will wish to keep a close eye on this highly promising two-year-old.

Gosden sends out three untraced juveniles today, the best of which might be Desert Track in the Rempstone Maiden Stakes at Leicester.

The betting will be informative here, particularly with regard to the Godolphin runner, Stunbeam Dance (4.15). He was strongly fancied on his intended debut at Newmarket in June, but had to be withdrawn after playing up in the starting stalls.

More tangible claims are held by Hawkix (5.15) in the Stag Apprentices Handicap, a race David Morley's gelding won off a similar mark last year. With the talented Fergal Lynch aboard, Hawkix should go close again.

At Lingfield, Michael Stoute's highest disappointing filly Really A Dream (5.00) could make a mockery of her lowly rating in the Blindfold Heath Handicap if she is preferred by Frankie Dettori to the Godolphin pair.

Southwell passes its medical

SOUTHWELL, the course where Richard Davis, the 21-year-old jump jockey, suffered fatal injuries in a fall over the chasing course in July, was given a stringent examination yesterday and pronounced A1.

Last week Dr Michael Turner threatened to resign as chief medical officer to the Jockey Club after expressing misgivings over the qualifications of ambulance drivers. Yesterday Turner arrived at the course two hours before the start of their all-

weather Flat meeting when he spent almost an hour inspecting various aspects of safety cover.

He was accompanied by two leading medical figures, Dr Richard Glover and Ian Rosa, as well as Tony Goodhead, director of racecourse services.

Goodhead reported satisfaction at the course's arrangements. "Following Dr Turner's inspection, Southwell complies fully with Jockey Club instructions and we are very satisfied with the course's level of medical care," he said.

Leicester with guide to recent form

2.15 Maresfield	3.45 Polar Gypsy
2.45 Colton Street	4.15 Sandstone Dance
3.15 Our Shadow (sh)	4.45 Espartero
	5.15 HAWKIX (imp)

2.15 100% FLEET MAIDEN STAKES (5) 11.00m 11.00m

1 CLEAR THE AIR (15) P 1-11	Q 10m 5
2 ISLA PATRICK (10) D Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
3 DEAN HANLEY (10) D Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
4 IRIDICA J GARDNER (11) D Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
5 TRUTHFUL (11) D Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
6 MICKLE (17) 1	Q 10m 5

2.45 100% HURRY SELLING HANDICAP (5) 11.00m 11.00m

1 BOLT LIFE TRILL (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
2 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
3 54000 SUNDY WALKER (11) J Johnson 8-11	Q 10m 5
4 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
5 400 CHAMPAINS DAUGHTER (21) P Cole 8-3	Q 10m 5
6 41020 POLY MOON (10) M Dawson 8-3	Q 10m 5
7 105 HONORABLE (10) M Dawson 8-3	Q 10m 5
8 100253 CALVIN SURET (20) J Eassey 8-1	Q 10m 5
9 09215 JIMMIE (20) (20) J J. Harris 8-1	Q 10m 5
10 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
11 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
12 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
13 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
14 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5

3.15 WEATHERS STALLION BOOK HANDICAP (7) 11.00m

1 30213 PERILOUS PLANT (10) (10) M. S. 9-10	Q 10m 5
2 30213 PERILOUS PLANT (10) (10) M. S. 9-10	Q 10m 5
3 30213 PERILOUS PLANT (10) (10) M. S. 9-10	Q 10m 5
4 30213 PERILOUS PLANT (10) (10) M. S. 9-10	Q 10m 5
5 30213 PERILOUS PLANT (10) (10) M. S. 9-10	Q 10m 5
6 30213 PERILOUS PLANT (10) (10) M. S. 9-10	Q 10m 5
7 30213 PERILOUS PLANT (10) (10) M. S. 9-10	Q 10m 5
8 30213 PERILOUS PLANT (10) (10) M. S. 9-10	Q 10m 5
9 30213 PERILOUS PLANT (10) (10) M. S. 9-10	Q 10m 5
10 30213 PERILOUS PLANT (10) (10) M. S. 9-10	Q 10m 5

3.45 100% HURRY SELLING HANDICAP (5) 11.00m 11.00m

1 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
2 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
3 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
4 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
5 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
6 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
7 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
8 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
9 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
10 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5

Lingfield runners and riders

2.00 Maresfield

2.00 Maresfield	4.00 Cherry Garden
2.50 Woodside	4.30 Tule Motion
3.00 Chorus Song	5.00 Really A Dream
3.30 Philadelphia	5.30 Moorcroft

2.00 100% HURRY SELLING HANDICAP (5) 11.00m 11.00m

1 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
2 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
3 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
4 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
5 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
6 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
7 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
8 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
9 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
10 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5

2.30 100% HURRY SELLING HANDICAP (5) 11.00m 11.00m

1 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
2 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
3 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
4 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
5 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
6 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
7 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
8 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
9 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
10 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5

3.00 100% HURRY SELLING HANDICAP (5) 11.00m 11.00m

1 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
2 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
3 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
4 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
5 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
6 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
7 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
8 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
9 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
10 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5

3.30 100% HURRY SELLING HANDICAP (5) 11.00m 11.00m

1 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
2 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
3 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
4 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
5 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
6 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
7 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
8 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
9 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
10 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5

Results

BATH

1.45 (1st) 4, RICHARD WOOD LAD, L. Dettori (10-1), 11.00m	Q 10m 5
2.15 (1st) 4, RICHARD WOOD LAD, L. Dettori (10-1), 11.00m	Q 10m 5
3.30 (1st) 4, RICHARD WOOD LAD, L. Dettori (10-1), 11.00m	Q 10m 5
4.45 (1st) 4, RICHARD WOOD LAD, L. Dettori (10-1), 11.00m	Q 10m 5
5.15 (1st) 4, RICHARD WOOD LAD, L. Dettori (10-1), 11.00m	Q 10m 5
6.30 (1st) 4, RICHARD WOOD LAD, L. Dettori (10-1), 11.00m	Q 10m 5
7.45 (1st) 4, RICHARD WOOD LAD, L. Dettori (10-1), 11.00m	Q 10m 5
8.15 (1st) 4, RICHARD WOOD LAD, L. Dettori (10-1), 11.00m	Q 10m 5
9.30 (1st) 4, RICHARD WOOD LAD, L. Dettori (10-1), 11.00m	Q 10m 5
10.45 (1st) 4, RICHARD WOOD LAD, L. Dettori (10-1), 11.00m	Q 10m 5

3.00 100% HURRY SELLING HANDICAP (5) 11.00m 11.00m

1 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
2 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
3 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
4 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
5 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
6 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
7 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
8 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
9 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
10 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5

3.30 100% HURRY SELLING HANDICAP (5) 11.00m 11.00m

1 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
2 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
3 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
4 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
5 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
6 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
7 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
8 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
9 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
10 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5

4.00 100% HURRY SELLING HANDICAP (5) 11.00m 11.00m

1 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
2 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
3 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
4 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
5 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
6 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
7 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
8 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	Q 10m 5
9 40254 SUNDY WALKER (10) C Murray 8-11	

Rugby Union

Robert Armstrong on a renewed breakaway threat over Five Nations television revenue

Clubs stick to their guns

ENGLAND'S leading clubs are sticking to their plan to break away from the Rugby Football Union...

Rugby Union Clubs (Epruc) carry out their threat to go it alone...

per cent will go to the English clubs and the remaining five per cent will be distributed...

conceded is not theirs to sell independently - has failed to modify Epruc...



Brittle... trenchant

match agreement under which they would show Five Nations matches at home via a terrestrial channel...

In any case, the home unions still have a great deal of negotiating to carry out...

Early Bath for Paul and Robinson at The Rec

HENRY PAUL and Jason Robinson make their rugby union debuts for Bath tomorrow...

The New Zealander Paul, who signed a lucrative four-month contract worth about £100,000...

plagued by injuries and illness to front-row players with only the prop Phil Booth...

England squad, which has already boycotted one scheduled training session...

Wales, Scotland and Ireland plan to negotiate a mix-and-match agreement...

Cricket

Tufnell leaves tour selectors in a spin

Mike Selvey on the probable make-up of the England party for the winter tour

AS WITH choosing a man for a Manchester competition, the selection of a touring party is about balance...

troubled the selectors unduly, apart from some soul-searching over Phil Tufnell...

natively two all-rounders completing the picture. After a summer in which five of the six batsmen...



To go or not to go... Tufnell takes wickets but poses big question

Ramprakash a man most worthy

David Hoppe

AFTER hastening Nasser Hussain's development into a Test batsman by awarding him last year's captaincy...

sure at such a critical stage of his career would test his mettle. The presence alongside him of Surrey's Adam Hoolioake...

Against him is his poor touring record. Atherton is believed to be in favour of taking him and so is the coach...

Ice Hockey

Kingston face action over disciplinary record

Vic Batchelder

THE Kingston Hawks completed a miserable weekend road trip to Newcastle and Scotland with a 9-0 defeat...

disciplinary chairman, Kingston face further action over their disciplinary record. "It's probably the worst we've ever had..."

of the team's German players, Mark Woolf, in Sunday's match. A hat-trick by Craig Woodcroft...

American Football

Cowboys find form to stop Giants in their tracks

Mark Tran in New York

THE Dallas Cowboys regrouped after dropping their first game of the season to swat aside the New York Giants...

game. Moreover the Giants defence had to spend too much time on the field and were perfecting at the end of the first half...

Smith then got into the act, outrunning one tackler and breaking another tackle to score a five-yard touchdown...

Athletics

Johnson lets Nebiolo down in Sarajevo

Duncan Mackay on a war-torn city's day to remember

THE enduring television images of horror and massacre but yesterday, in the rebuilt Kosovo stadium here...

teries were the first thing one saw. The sight reduced Ludmila Engquist, the Olympic 100 metres hurdles champion...

Rugby League

Larder calls up Critchley

Paul Fitzpatrick

KARLE HAMMOND, the St Helens loose forward for stand-off, and Jason Critchley...

cluded by virtue of his consistent form over the past two months. Critchley's inclusion is a slight surprise...

Sailing

British skiff for Sydney

Bob Fisher

AFTER extensive trials on Lake Garda at Torbole in Italy, the International Sailing Federation...

Sport in brief

Cycling

France's Laurent Jalabert took another step towards a second successive Tour de Spain title...

Equestrianism

THE Irishman Peter Charles picked up the world's richest showjumping prize...

Badminton

England's No 3 Peter Bush suffered an horrific injury at the Royal Brompton tournament...

Snooker

John Parrott, the 1991 world champion, has criticised the sport's governing body...

Motor Racing

Ferrari have scotched rumours by confirming that Eddie Irvine will stay as No. 2 driver to Michael Schumacher...

SportsGuardian

Graham on the way back with Leeds

Ian Ross on the managerial opportunity created by Howard Wilkinson's sacking

ENGLISH football's managerial blood-letting continued yesterday with the dismissal of Howard Wilkinson by Leeds United. The former Arsenal manager George Graham will probably be named as his successor within 24 hours.

Wilkinson's eight-year spell in charge at Elland Road ended in mid-morning only five games into the Premier-ship season but, more significantly, less than 48 hours after Leeds suffered the indignity of a 4-0 home defeat by Manchester United.

In an effort to stabilise a club who have been drifting towards crisis for some months, Leeds are likely to appoint Graham rapidly.

"I had lost confidence in Howard; he had, perhaps, been here a little too long," said the Leeds chairman Bill Fotherby after sacking the man who had led the club to the League championship only four years ago.

Although Kenny Dalglish would be interested in returning to management only a month after standing down as director of football at Blackburn, Graham is the clear favourite. And he is anxious to repair an image tarnished by his involvement in the transfer-bug scandal and his one-year ban from football.

Although the formal announcement of Wilkinson's sacking was made by Fotherby, the decision was undoubtedly taken by the Yorkshire club's new owner, the London-based Caspian group.

The man who in essence brokered that deal was the

Caspian director Richard Thompson, the former owner of Queens Park Rangers. He and Graham are close friends and live in the same Hampstead apartment block.

When Graham rejected the offer to succeed Alan Ball at Manchester City a fortnight ago, he privately indicated that he was prepared to wait for an approach from a club that could meet in full his financial demands and match his ambition.

As he has presumably been told by Thompson, Leeds would seem to fit the bill on both counts. Although Wilkinson has spent £9.7 million of the estimated £12 million provided by Caspian for new players, he has also raised £7 million with sales.

If Graham is appointed it is possible he will invite his former assistant at Arsenal, Stewart Houston, to join him at Leeds.

Wilkinson, 53, was in philosophical mood as he faced up to the first sacking of a distinguished managerial career which also embraced productive spells at Notts County and Sheffield Wednesday.

Nevertheless he said: "When I arrived here I talked about a 10-year plan, and when I look at the young players at this club I can still see that plan coming to fruition. Even a blind man could see that this club is in better shape now. We are an established Premiership force with great potential and a terrific stadium."

He conceded that the disenchantment of a small but vociferous section of the Leeds support had contributed to his downfall.

"I am disappointed, very sad and very shocked," he said, "but my board has made a decision in good faith and I must live with it."

Wilkinson moved to Elland Road from Hillsborough in October 1983, shortly after Leeds had finally severed ties with the Don Revie era by sacking Billy Bremner.

Only six months after Leeds won the championship, Wilkinson's relationship with an expectant public began to show signs of strain.

The sale of Eric Cantona to Manchester United for only £1.2 million was not well received and, after three more seasons of perceptible stagnation, unrest reached its peak last April when Leeds were defeated 3-0 by Aston Villa in the Coca-Cup final.

Yesterday's developments will no doubt have been noted across the Femines at Malne Road. But, for the moment, said Wilkinson, "I am going to have a rest. I will be back, but not for a while."

Wilkinson is the sixth managerial casualty of the English season.

Graham... still ambitious

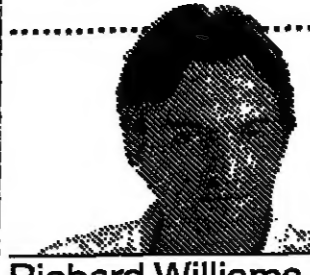


SPORT RETURNS TO SARAJEVO



War ruins... Morocco's Hicham El Guerrouj, who won the 1500m yesterday from Daniel Komen of Kenya, examines Sarajevo's wrecked library

Image-maker puts a new spin on Hill



Richard Williams

NO, Mary Spillane said, I'm just here as a fan, that's all.

She was protesting too much. In her short cornflower-blue linen dress, cardinal-red cashmere cardigan, shiny gold pumps, thick black wraparound sunglasses and a quantity of jewellery, Mary Spillane certainly blended into the human zoo of the Monza paddock last weekend.

But her presence, as a member of Damon Hill's inner circle, was one of the most interesting elements of the whole Italian Grand Prix meeting.

Mary Spillane is what is known as an image consultant. A 46-year-old American who wrote speeches for Ronald Reagan before coming to Britain at the beginning of the Eighties, she advises business people and politicians — including MPs and candidates of all three major parties — on how to present themselves.

And now her clients include Damon Hill.

"Machiavelli would be at home here," she observed as we stood in the sun, watching the paddock people exchanging greetings and gossip. "It's so wonderful to see the energy of it all, the chaos, the politics and machinations."

Like those of a doctor or a psychiatrist, her relationships with individual clients are confidential. She is not keen to talk about her work with Hill, refusing even to say how long she has been on the payroll (although she did say, when talking about the world of Formula One, that "the whole of the last year has been a learning curve for me").

But she is part of a group of people surrounding Hill — his lawyer and manager, Michael Breen; his physiotherapist, Erwin Gollner, his aide de camp, Jamie McCallum; his friend, the photographer Jon Nicholson; and an occasional media advisor, the sports writer Michael Calvin — who have been playing their parts in maintaining the driver's psychological equilibrium, and whose presence as a team within a team has unquestionably irritated Frank Williams.

She is a true creature of the modern world in that her professional concern is not with essence but with perception. "I'm called in to give people an

outside assessment of how they present themselves and what they might do to improve," she told me.

"First of all I critique their television performances, how they're written up, whether they're analysed as being strong, being in charge, being committed, doing the right thing. Or, if they're in deep shit, what they need to do to turn that around."

What does she change? "It's variable. There's no one formula for it. It can be how they look, how they sound, it can be whether or not they speak in certain contexts or whether they leave other people to do it for them."

Politicians are one thing. But don't we want sports people to be themselves? "Absolutely."

So does she help them to be more themselves, or less? "More themselves, but in a way that it works through visual media and the press. Some people say, 'Tell me what to do, tell me what to say.' That's done day in and day out with a lot of public figures, but then there is an individual character — like, say, a Damon Hill — who just won't be packaged or programmed like that, who needs to make sure that what he says is perceived effectively, but is still what he believes in and feels strongly about."

"Often the individual is misunderstood because the message is unclear or the way they behave when they're delivering the message contradicts what they're trying to say. The general public has become so sophisticated at analysing how someone walks into a room, how they sit down and handle a press conference, whether they look on top of things or beleaguered. The public is incredibly perceptive. Not just you guys."

She's wrong there. The public's perception is not the product of its own sophistication but is almost entirely shaped by "you guys", journalists who need to put a spin on reality in order to dramatise their stories, and a range of skills designed to magnify minor flaws until they can no longer take the strain and an otherwise sound structure is shattered.

Off duty, Hill is the most natural and companionable of men, his straightforwardness a remarkable response to the peculiar circumstances of his upbringing. But the Hill who employs Mary Spillane is the one who turns twitchy under certain kinds of pressure. He pays her bills, so it is for him to say how effective her work has been.

Austin shames the stay-aways

SPORT returned to the Kosovo stadium in Sarajevo yesterday as 50,000 spectators watched the first major competition since peace returned to the Bosnian capital.

Primo Nebitlo, president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, attacked the big-name athletes who stayed away. "They have talent but no heart," he said. One with both, the Olympic high jump champion Charles Austin, said: "I feel privileged to be here."

Austin was a winner, as was John Mayock from Yorkshire, who in the 2,000 metres outpaced the world 10,000m record-holder Salah Hissou of Morocco.

Duncan Mackay, page 15

"Does it really matter who's behind the travel insurance?"

A very down to earth question.

The words 'American Express' are understood around the world. That's important if you're abroad and you find you need medical attention, cover for lost baggage or personal property, compensation for travel delay or funding for legal expenses. So if you need emergency assistance or even pre-travel advice, our representatives are on call 24 hours a day wherever on earth you are. We offer a choice of competitively-priced annual or single trip policies that you need not be a Cardmember to take advantage of. You see, your travel insurance provider can make a world of difference.

To find out how we can help you do more with travel insurance, call **0200 700737**



Insurance Services

Policy terms and conditions are available upon request.

American Express Services Europe Limited, Reg. Office, Portland House, 1 Stag Place, London SW1E 5BZ, Reg. No. 1833139.

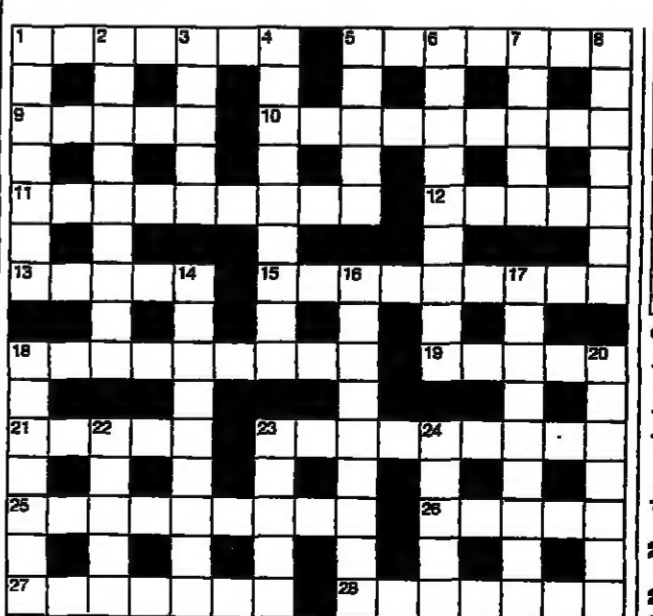
TINI

"This is a world of fiction that appeals first to the Ambre Solaire-stained paperback brigade, then to the multiplex set from Oldham to Ohio. For Hollywood is the environment in which these new lives must take shape, evolve, and grow." Making money out of monster movies

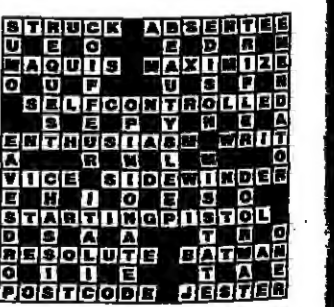
G2 page 4

Guardian Crossword No 20,754

Set by Audrey



- Across**
- 1 That's the style! — but god, the pain (7)
 - 5 Dery little girls a promise (7)
 - 9 Two men heard and easily understood (5)
 - 10 Animal with strange aroma swallowed the pickle (9)
 - 11 Elected a scoundrel with a cry of triumph — and America couldn't care less (9)
 - 12 Two notes about the French producing fragrant resin (5)
 - 13 Disagreeable old person — excellent swimmer (5)
 - 15 No one in the country backed the journalist: heartless lady, in truth (9)
 - 18 Those who get what they deserve? (9)
 - 19 Parker gets the go-ahead on reversing (5)
 - 21 Shield from being an endless butt (5)
 - 23 Good rates in exchange for players' get-out? (5-4)
 - 25 Getting along in Old English with modern wordsmith (9)
 - 26 A little child again, is she? (5)
 - 27 Murmurs with total absorption in work (7)
 - 28 A month with nothing to drink might be in keeping (7)
- Down**
- 1 A consultant in earlier days, I'm coming up to 50 (7)
 - 2 Fool gets hot starting to canoe in a cravat (9)
 - 3 Supporter called for a drink (5)
 - 4 Add detail to make the Spanish sailor talk (9)
 - 5 Tips for low spirits? (5)
 - 6 Bird's needs grew alarmingly (5-4)
 - 7 Regulator starts for Venice and leaves very early (5)
 - 8 Fuddledly sly about rearing a lot of animals (7)



- CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,754**
- 14 So give the umpire a mineral (9)
 - 16 Incessant bore! (5)
 - 17 Stripper taking man on river with topless distance-runner (9)
 - 18 Not many get flummoxed? Quite the contrary (7)
 - 20 Old HGV about to prepare for war on board ship (4-3)
 - 22 Kanga Street for a kip? (5)
 - 23 Misses the garbage collectors (5)
 - 24 A rule of conduct and so on includes a greeting (5)
- Solution tomorrow**
- Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0801 333 238. Calls cost 30p per min, cheap rate, 49p per min at all other times. Services supplied by ATS

مكازم الصحيل